Audit of ₱100-B coconut levy fund sought

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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GMA: It's not Sin but his spokesperson

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND JEROME ANING

SHE called up Cardinal Sin, and not the other way around to seek his advice about the "Live Show" problem, President Macapagal-Arroyo revealed during the President's Night of the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) last Thursday.

GMA/ A19

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- ▨ Focus on Jericho Rosales
- ▨ 'Exit Wounds' creates new action sub-genre
- ▨ GMA airs special on Boyet-Sandy wedding

ROSALES

DOJ to call Estrada, FVR on Dacer killing

Inquiry to focus on Palace meeting

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday said that former President Joseph Estrada should be questioned in relation to the alleged murder case of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer because the latter's daughter Ampy had claimed seeing Estrada angry with her father during a meeting only days before his disappearance.

But while the justice officials have not agreed about whether to invite Estrada for questioning, they will ask former President Fidel Ramos to shed light on the case, Perez told a news conference.

Ramos' information, in particular, could be vital to uncovering the masterminds behind the alleged murder, Perez said, recalling that Ramos, a former client and close friend of Dacer's, had spoken to the PR man hours before he and his driver were abducted around noon of Nov. 24.

The victims were allegedly strangled around 8 p.m. the same day and the corpses set on fire.

Perez said that before inviting Estrada to shed light on the case, justice officials "would like to get clarification first from Dacer's daughter on what took place when her father visited Malacañang before he disappeared."

DOJ/ A20

THE HAVE-NOT KIDS

DENNIS SABANGAN

They pick their way through what remains of the shanty where they once lived, one of 700 shanties that went up in smoke on Thursday night at the squatter colony along NIA Road, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City.

Lacson urges PAOCTF men to cooperate in NBI probe

PANFILO "Ping" Lacson, former head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), yesterday called on its members linked to the abduction and murder of PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer to come forward in order to "clear their names."

Lacson, now part of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM) senatorial slate, said in an interview over radio station dzRH that it would be best for the implicated PAOCTF members to cooperate in the probe being conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation.

He also urged the NBI not to put political color in the probe, and bewailed supposed insinuations by investigators that he was involved in the case.

"My wish is that light would be shed on the case and that the innocent being linked to it would be cleared. And there would be no more ground for these insinuations," he said in Filipino.

In Pagadian City, President Macapagal-Arroyo wondered aloud why Lacson had denied involvement in the Dacer case.

"Why is he denying when his name was not even mentioned?" the President said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople said the chamber would "closely watch" developments in the case before conducting its own investigation.

Ople pointed out that while two Cavite farmers had confessed to the murder of Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito, Lacson had also alleged that they were tortured into

LACSON/ A20

Ballot theft raises fears of cheating

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

SECURITY personnel of the Commission on Elections caught a casual employee stealing newly printed ballots last week, raising fears that the attempted theft was part of a scheme to copy the ballots for massive cheating in the May 14 elections.

Comelec Commissioner Rex Borra said the employee was caught red-handed at the National Printing Office in Quezon City while he was about to spirit out five ballots concealed in a stack of newsprint he was carrying.

Borra declined to name the employee, but he revealed that the culprit was assigned to the Comelec Printing Committee headed by Commissioner Luzviminda Tangcangco.

Tancangco was not available for comment yesterday.

Borra said the five ballots would not ensure the victory of certain candidates if these were added to the votes that they would get in the elections.

But he warned that duplicating the ballots to produce fake ballots could be used in massive cheating in the May elections.

"These could be easily replicated and used for large-scale fraud,"

BALLOT/ A19

Gloria gives up dream of 13-0

BY DONNA S. CUETO

FOR the first time, President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted that the dream of the People Power Coalition of a "13-0" sweep in the May senatorial race may not come true.

Speaking at the President's Night of the Manila Overseas Press Club on Thursday evening, Ms Macapagal said it was possible that opposition candidates would win, even as she took note of their campaign to return former President Joseph Estrada to Malacañang.

But the President said that even if some of the opposition candidates were to win in the May 14 polls, they would not be able to fulfill that campaign promise.

"A few of the candidates of the opposition have promised to bring my predecessor back to Malacañang if they even get to the Senate," she said.

"I don't know why they think that line will help them win. But I

GLORIA/ A20

Stiff opposition to Alvarez at CA expected

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

NEWLY named Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez faces rough sailing at the Commission on Appointments, two top Senate officials said yesterday.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. reiterated his objection to Alvarez's appointment on the basis of the latter's known preference for a selective log ban.

Pimentel, who advocates a total log ban, has earlier vowed to oppose Alvarez's appointment when it is submitted to the bicameral commission.

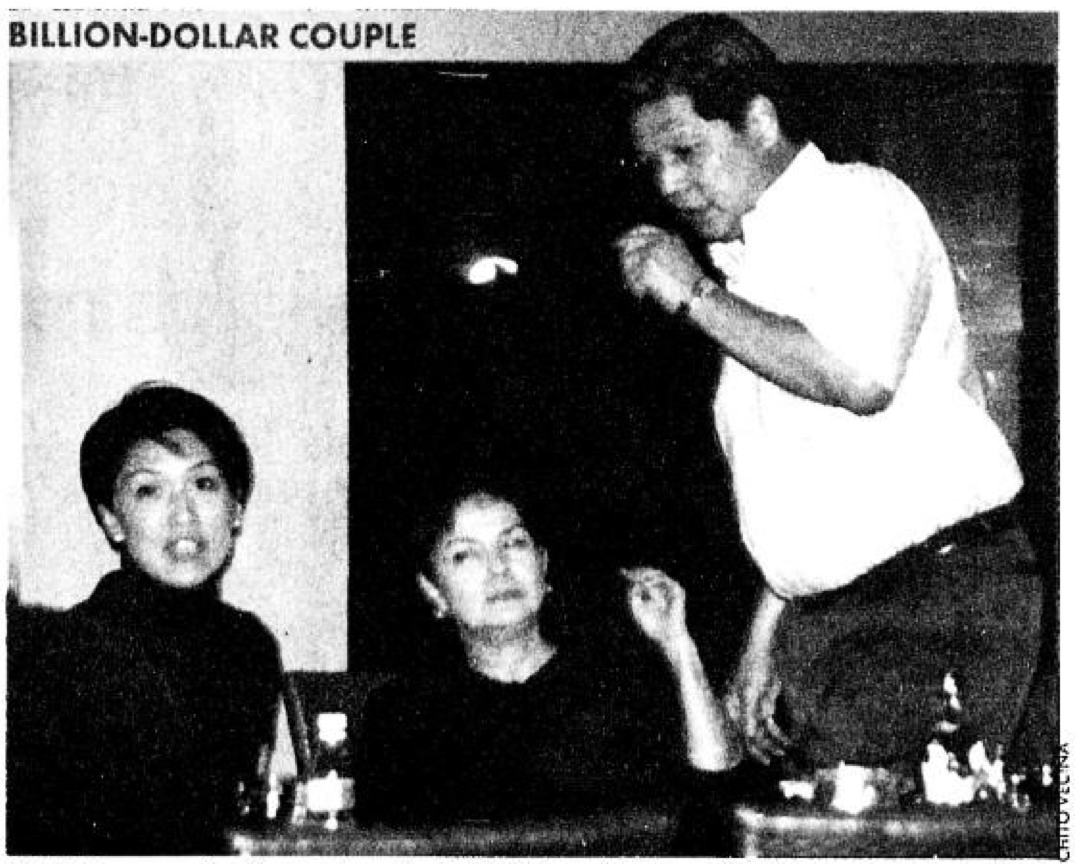
He said yesterday that he would personally block Alvarez's confirmation unless the latter is able to guarantee "protection of the forest."

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople will support the confirmation of Alvarez because he is a friend and a former senator.

But Ople said that while the Isabela con-

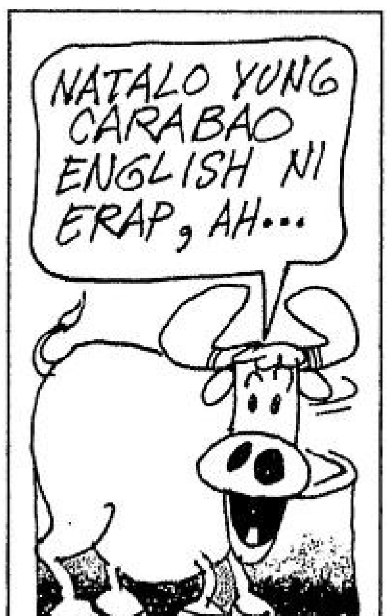
STIFF/ A7

BILLION-DOLLAR COUPLE



CHITO VELINA

WHILE German authorities are investigating their alleged attempt to launder $13.2 billion, Irene (at left) and husband Greggy Araneta party on Thursday night at Conway Bar at Shangri-La Hotel Makati.


NATALO YUNG CARABAO ENGLISH NI ERAP, AH...

Bush claims linguistic brilliance

WASHINGTON—He says "Grecians" when referring to Greeks and uses the word "inebriating" when he means exhilarating. And the US media has been quick to note every slip he makes.

But US President George W. Bush takes the criticisms in stride. He says the highbrow journalists who

BUSH/ A7

Orly, governor object to gov't-MILF accord

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY,
ALLAN A. NAWAL
AND HERNAN P. DE LA CRUZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol yesterday warned that they would mount Mindanao-wide protests if the administration refused to reconsider certain provisions in the accord that it signed with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Kuala Lumpur last week.

Mercado said President Macapagal-Arroyo and Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process who inked the accord with the MILF, were falling into the MILF's trap when they agreed to the group's claim that its fallen bases in Camp Abubakar and other camps were civilian communities.

Mercado said this position was an "indictment" of the entire military organization because it was being made to appear that the areas that the military attacked during the war last year were civilian communities.

But Ms Macapagal assured government troops that their efforts and sacrifices in conquering the bastions of the MILF would not be wasted, as the government would still control the camps.

The President, who was in Pagadian City, said the MILF's dec-

ORLY/ A5

NAKU, BAKA GINAGAMIT NA NGA SA ELEKSYON!

Coco levy audit sought

COJUANGCO

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

MILITANTS yesterday called on the Commission on Audit to immediately conduct a review on the P100-billion coconut levy fund, raising fears that business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. has used to bankroll the campaign of opposition candidates.

The controversial tax fund which has been the subject of a long dispute between Cojuangco and coconut farmer groups represents 47 percent of the ownership shares of the food and beverage conglomerate San Miguel Corp.

The militant party-list group Bayan Party said President Macapagal-Arroyo should ask COA to conduct a thorough accounting on the coco levy fund and disclose its status to the public.

"Farmer groups want to know the status of the fund and how much it is now. We have been told by our peasant peers that the fund, which is kept at Cojuangco's discretion could be used to finance campaign operations of rabid pro-Estrada candidates in the May 14 elections," said Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo.

Hundreds of coconut farmers from Southern and Central Luzon had been camping out in front of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) central office in Elliptical Road, Quezon City, to demand from the government to settle the coco levy fund dispute and give more attention to the deteriorating coconut industry.

According to Ocampo, they also received reports that Cojuangco funded the presidential campaign of his friend, ousted President Joseph Estrada, in 1998 using money from the coco levy fund.

"We ask the President to seriously consider the issue raised by the peasant groups and direct COA to account the tax fund. The money belongs to small coconut farmers not to Danding. It would be insulting and revolting on the part of small coconut farmers to see their money falling in the hands of Estrada and Danding's preferred candidates," he said.

For his part, Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert-Corpuz echoed calls for a thorough assessment of the coco levy fund.

He raised fear that since the fund is still an undeclared public fund, Cojuangco might withdraw and use the money to fund the campaign operations of opposition senatorial candidates Panfilo Lacson, Orly Mercado, Loi Ejercito, Gringo Honasan, Miriam Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile.

"Unless COA uncovered the true status of coco levy fund, speculations would remain high as to alleged use of coco levy fund for Estrada and Cojuangco's favored candidates," he said.

"P100 billion is P100 billion. It could make or unmake a president, senators, congressmen and local public officials," Corpuz added in asserting his point to vigorously push for a complete accounting of coco tax fund.

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Greenpeace raises alert on GMO in local baby milk

By Volt Contreras

ARE Filipino babies growing up on milk products that are being rejected by mothers in other countries because they contain genetically modified organisms or GMOs?

At least one infant formula being sold locally has been found to contain ingredients extracted from genetically altered soya beans in tests conducted by Greenpeace, the environmental watchdog group claimed in a report released early this week.

Von Hernandez, campaign director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia, identified the allegedly GMO-laced product as Isomil, a soya-based infant formula manufactured by Abbot Ross of the Netherlands.

"There is evidence that baby food containing GMOs shunned by European consumers have found their way into Filipino homes," Hernandez said.

But Abbot Phils., the local distributor, denied this, dismissing it as an old issue that the company had sufficiently addressed back in 1999.

"The soy protein used in the manufacture of the product is guaranteed by our supplier to be sourced from soy beans that are not genetically altered, and is processed in such a way that the identity of soybean material will be preserved throughout the commodity chain, from the time the (raw) material is obtained up to the finished product," said Dr. Bienvenido Tianco, Abbot Phils.' technical services chief.

Tiangco declined to name the soy protein "supplier."

Greenpeace conceded that Abbot Ross, the mother company, had already issued a statement in 1999 denying its alleged use of GMOs not only with regards to Isomil but to its other baby food products.

Abbot had then written to Greenpeace to assure the organization that the Isomil sold throughout Europe are perfectly safe.

But recent test conducted by Greenpeace showed that while Isomil is being sold "GMO-free" in countries where consumers and food regulators had grown conscious of so called "franken-foods," shipments bound for the Philippines still contain GMOs, Hernandez said.

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Ople seeks probe of mass graves

By C. Avendaño

EXPRESSING shock over the discovery of mass graves bearing victims of communist purges in Misamis Oriental, Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople yesterday urged government to conduct an investigation.

"Authorities should not ignore this crime even if this was committed within the sphere of responsibility of the New People's Army-Communist Party of the Philippines," Ople told reporters.

He expressed concern over what he noted was the "duplicitous posture" of the National Democratic Front.

While NDF leaders have declared their desire to resume peace talks, Ople said they also recently vowed to wage a full-scale war against the government.

The senator was referring to the message issued by Armando Liwanag on the CPP's 32nd anniversary the other day where the latter urged the NPA to continue "to seize the moment to strengthen" themselves.

"We fight in the battlefield while our negotiators talk across the table," said Liwanag, believed to be an alias of CPP founder Jose Maria Sison.

"This should put the government on high alert and warn them that communists use this kind of double talk to dupe the government," he said.

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RP not reviving Sabah claim, says Guingona

THE PHILIPPINES will not revive its longstanding claim to Sabah even though Manila had gone to the World Court over a dispute involving the resource-rich Malaysian state, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said yesterday.

"We are not reviving the claim to Sabah," Guingona said.

Malaysia on Thursday objected to Manila's move to "intervene" in Kuala Lumpur's ownership dispute with Indonesia over two islands off Sabah being considered by the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

The Philippines had argued that "there is a possibility" any decision by the tribunal would impact on Manila's claim to Sabah, which together with Sarawak make up Malaysia's timber and oil-rich states on the huge Borneo island.

The Malaysian foreign ministry said the case over sovereignty of Litigan and Sipadan islands with Indonesia did not concern the status of Sabah and had already reached an advanced stage before the court.

Guingona, who is also foreign secretary, explained that the Philippines had to seek to intervene in the dispute between Malaysia and Indonesia because of a legal necessity.

"As a matter of fact, we only do that because we don't want laches. But that is not to say we are reviving the claim or asserting any rights," he said.

"We were just following the rules of the high tribunal. This is just intervention because there is a saying in law—national and international—do not sleep (on your rights), avoid laches and assert whatever right you have," Guingona said.

The Sabah claim remains in the Baseline Act, an appendix to the rewritten constitution of the Philippines which defines the state as part of Philippine territory.

According to historians, the Philippine claim to Sabah dates back to 1704 when the Sultan of Brunei ceded part of the then North Borneo to the Sultan of Sulu in the southern Philippines for his help in suppressing a rebellion.

Malaysia now pays 5,300 ringgit ($1,394) annually in what it calls cession money to the heirs of the Sulu Sultanate through their lawyer as provided for under an agreement signed in 1878. Kuala Lumpur says it is not rental, but a "grant in perpetuity."

Kuala Lumpur-Manila relations have been twice broken off because of the Sabah claim.

Guingona said he did not expect the Philippine legislature in the near future to remove the Sabah claim from the constitution.

"The legislature is not inclined to do that now," he said.

"I don't see that happening because the higher national interest of fostering friendly relationship with Malaysia is a more paramount goal at the moment," Guingona said.

Citing Britain's dispute with Argentina over the Falkland islands, he said territorial claims were lengthy affairs. *AFP*

Guingona to press US on toxic waste

By Rocky Nazareno

WITH THE NUMBER of victims growing, the Philippine government is keen on taking up the toxic waste issue with the United States more vigorously, according to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.

"We will present the issue before the US government," Guingona said yesterday after formalizing three Official Development Assistance agreements with Japan.

More than 200 victims of toxic waste contamination have sent an appeal to Guingona to intercede and convince the US to accept responsibility for toxic waste the Americans left behind in their former bases in Subic, Zambales and Clark, Pampanga.

"Perhaps, there is a moral obligation on the part of the US to help us cleanse (the bases) because our children are dying slowly as a result of the elements left there," Guingona told DFA reporters.

The victims, most of them children, and their families have asked the US government a total of $102 billion in compensation for the toxic waste contamination.

Guingona said he has already ordered that a study be undertaken to determine the extent of US responsibility over the cases of toxic waste contamination.

"We're having a study because a year before the bases were removed, there was a law passed asking the government to clean all the bases that will be withdrawn, to cleanse it from any toxic danger," he said.

SCARBOROUGH RETREAT

RP blinks on fishing ban

By Rocky Nazareno

THE GOVERNMENT may be finding its territorial dispute with China too hot to handle.

Yesterday, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. blinked in the face of a stern rebuke from China over his suggestion that the Philippines impose a fishing ban around Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, which the two countries are claiming.

"There is no need for us to impose a ban," Guingona said, two days after he had told a breakfast forum the Philippine government was keen on imposing a fishing ban to "preserve the shoal and its resources."

In Beijing, Special Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco and his Chinese hosts skirted around sticky issues concerning the two countries' territorial dispute during Yuchengco's visit, which continued through Friday, Agence France Presse reported.

The visit by Yuchengco, President Macapagal-Arroyo's special envoy to China, Japan and South Korea, comes as tensions flared anew after the Philippine Navy arrested several Chinese fishermen around Scarborough Shoal and Beijing objected to the statements of senior Philippine officials, including Guingona.

The meetings between Yuchengco and Chinese leaders, including Premier Zhu Rongji, have focused instead on positive aspects of the two countries' relationship such as increasing economic cooperation, especially in agriculture.

GUINGONA

Regarding their dispute, the two sides broadly reiterated their commitment to resolve their quarrel through peaceful means, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The Philippines and China are contesting sovereignty over Scarborough Shoal and the Spratly Islands group in the South China Sea. Also claiming ownership of the islands are Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. Vast oil deposits are believed to lie under the islands.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila issued a statement immediately following Guingona's suggestion, saying the Philippines could not impose a fishing ban on waters that "are an integral part of China."

"Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal) has always been Chinese traditional fishing grounds," the statement said. "We have noted the report and express grave concern over it."

"The moratorium (on fishing) was merely intended to prevent dangerous and destructive methods of fishing," Guingona backtracked yesterday.

He said the ban would only be to "conserve endangered species."

"After all, we are signatories to the International Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, so we need to impose the ban," he said.

Thursday, the Chinese Embassy also objected to comments by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez that Chinese sailors smuggled drugs into the Philippines.

The embassy asked the Philippine government to "restrain" Golez from making remarks that "could harm bilateral ties."

Golez had said Wednesday that the "greatest threat" to national security were Chinese gangs, which could include "moonlighting" armed forces officers, that smuggle up to $1.2 billion worth of illegal drugs into the Philippines every year.

With a report from AFP

Capulong bid for int'l court seat brightens

By A.T. Echavez

THE PHILIPPINES has better chances of getting a representation in the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) after the international court opened 27 new positions for ad litem judges who would assist the 14 regular judges.

Despite its failure to submit the nomination of human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong to the 14-member body before the Jan. 31 deadline, the Department of Foreign Affairs remain hopeful it could get a seat in the international tribunal.

Capulong was supposed to be the country's nominee in lieu of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who backed out in her bid for the post to run for another term in the Senate.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, concurrent DFA secretary, met with Capulong earlier this week and conferred with him on the campaign plan drafted by the Philippine charge d' affaires in New York for the country's effort to get a seat in the international tribunal.

"It will be a great honor for me to represent the country in this prestigious tribunal. At the same time, I can use the experience I get there in prosecuting (ousted President) Estrada for the war crimes he committed for ordering the military assault in Mindanao," Capulong told reporters Thursday night.

At least seven national and international lawyers groups pushed for the human rights lawyer's nomination to the ICTY, citing his extensive experience in the practice of international law and handling human rights cases.

Among those which supported Capulong's bid were the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the Philippine Bar Association, Philippine Association of Law Schools, LawAsia, International Bar Association of Human Rights Liaison for Asia-Pacific, the Philippine Chapter of the Union of International des Avocats, Free Legal Assistance Group and his colleagues at the Public Interest Law Center.

The ICTY was formed by the United Nations Security Council to try persons responsible for serious violations of the international humanitarian law such as genocide and war crimes committed Yugoslavia in 1991.

Capulong was one of the lawyers who assisted cause-oriented groups in filing an impeachment complaint against then President Estrada before the Congress in October. he later joined the core of the private prosecution panel in the impeachment trial.

"Capulong's participation as private prosecutor in the impeachment trial is a clear manifestation of his dedication to his calling as true advocate of the people," said Federico Acgaoili, president of the Philippine Bar Association.

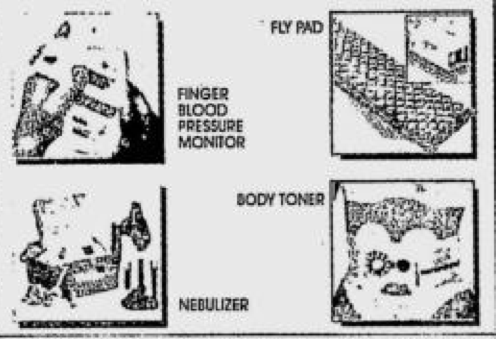
Under the statute creating the ICTY, the United Nations General Assembly will elect the 14 members of the court from a list of 22 to 33 nominees submitted by the Security Council.

Capulong, a delegate to the 1971 constitutional convention, is among the country's top human rights lawyers. He was one of the counsels of the 10.000 human rights victims of the martial law regime who won a $2.9-billion civil suit before the US District Court in Hawaii.

He also acted as lawyer for Flor Contemplacion, the domestic helper whose hanging in Singapore sparked protests and soured relations between the Philippines and the islandnation.

During the Aquino, Ramos and Estrada administrations, he served as counsel for the National Democratic Front in the peace negotiations.

3-DAY SALE
(March 30, 31, April 1, 2001)



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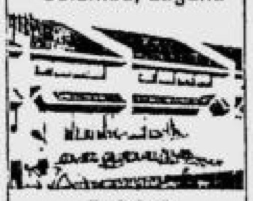

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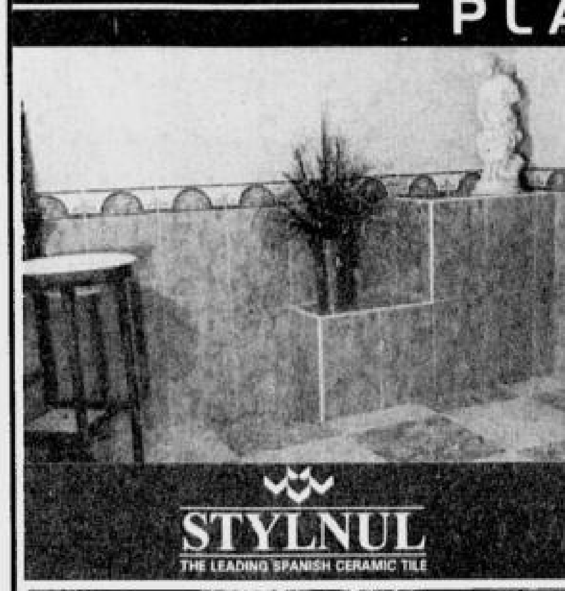

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PPC VS PUWERSA:

Battle of champs, war of slogans

By Dona Pazzibugan

NAGA CITY—Who's the real "champ?"

The opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa has accused the administration People Power Coalition of stealing a major campaign line.

LDP-PnM campaign officials protested the use of the PPC of the campaign line, "VOT FOR D CHAMMP," which represents the initials of its 13 senatorial candidates, in the television ads it recently started airing.

The opposition claim they were the first to use the term "champ" when they coined "MEET D RP CHAMPS," representing the initials of its own candidates, shortly after the start of the campaign period.

LDP president and senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara pointed out that it was Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, LDP secretary general and campaign manager, who came up with the "MEET D RP CHAMPS" acronym.

"They stole the line. Butz came out with it since day one (of the campaign)," Angara told the Inquirer when asked about the PPC's use of the "CHAMP" line in their television ads.

The PPC's "VOT FOR D CHAMMP" stands for Speaker Manuel Villar; Sen. Serge Osmena; Rep. Wigberto Tanada; Sen. Juan Flavier; former Gov. Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan; Rep. Ralph Recto; Sen. Franklin Drilon; Former BIR commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato; Rep. Joker Arroyo; former Neda chief Winnie Monsod; Sen. Ramon "Jun" Magsaysay Jr.; and lawyer Francis Pangilinan.

The opposition's "MEET D RP CHAMPS" meanwhile stands for former presidential adviser Jamby Madrigal; former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito-Estrada; Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile; doctor Ombra Tamano; Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago; Former Gov. Reuben Canoy; former police chief Panfilo Lacson; broadcaster Noli de Castro; Sen. Gregorio Honasan; former executive secretary Edgardo Angara; former defense chief Orly Mercado; former press secretary Ricardo Puno; and former Sen. Santanina Rasul.

The Inquirer first encountered the "MEET THE RP CHAMP" acronym during an LDP-PnM sortie in Samar in the first week of March.

The acronym was used in a banner placed on the stage during a rally in Calbayog City.

At the time, Rasul was not yet officially included in the LDP-PnM ticket.

The Inquirer saw the acronym used in a streamer during a sortie in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, last week.

Angara said they would still use the line in their television ads even if the PPC had already used it in their own ads.

LDP-PnM campaign organizers said Aquino had been toying with the candidates' names since the start of the campaign in order to come up with a catchy line.

One organizer said Aquino initially wanted the line "MEET RP'S CHAMP," with the "S" standing for Santiago. But the senator reportedly insisted that her maiden name "Defensor" be used.

"In our campaign headquarters, you can see "MEET D RP CHAMPS" everywhere," the organizer said.

Aquino's younger brother, Paul, is the overall campaign manager of the PPC.

Angara, however, refused to comment on the possibility that Aquino may have mentioned his invented acronym to his younger brother.

Angara calls for 'eco-zone' in Camarines

NAGA CITY—Opposition senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara yesterday said that a Camarines Sur Special Economic Zone should be established in a strategic area in the province to enhance the awesome economic potentials of the Bicol region.

Angara said he would immediately work for the passage of a bill seeking just that after the May elections. The measure, he said, will be supported by the entire leadership of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa and the party candidates who will win in the May elections.

Angara said, the proposed Camarines Sur Special Economic Zone shall be a "self-sustaining" industrial, commercial, financial, tourism and investment center with a free port and suitable retirement/residential areas.

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Winnie wins more than just cheers in Capiz

CAPIZ—Despite getting the same phenomenal response in the different sorties, Solita "Mareng Winnie" Monsod still can't believe the kind of receptions she has been receiving from the youth throughout the country.

When she visited this island, little did Mareng Winnie know that the youth from this province had packed more than just cheers and applause for her and she was dumbfounded to find out that they had actually exerted a lot of effort and even spent their own money for a grand welcome and other surprises.

"This welcome really warms my heart. They even had balloons and Ati-Atihan. They even had a motorcade of about 15 cars," said Monsod who is one of the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates.

Monsod revealed that instead of her giving our campaign paraphernalia, the Capiz youth were the ones that showered her with leaflets, stickers and other materials that they made with their own funds to help Mareng Winnie land a seat in the Senate.

"They even handed me an envelope that contained P2,400 and insisted I accept it. They told me that it might help me get into the halls of the Senate," relates Monsod.

According to the respected economist, the gesture of the Capiz youth is proof that the younger generation are clamoring for a new system of politics.

FORMER Speaker Manny Villar and Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar welcome President Macapagal-Arroyo prior to ceremonies where an initial batch of 3,000 out of 10,000 families in barangay CAA in Las Piñas were given lot title certificates.

Senate needs housing expert like Villar–Gloria

FORMER Speaker Manny Villar, who during his stint as a housing developer built more than 100,000 low cost housing units made affordable to ordinary Filipinos, will be able to utilize his experience in the industry to help solve the country's housing shortage, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Congressman Manny Villar's expertise in housing will certainly go a long way in helping government address the housing backlog, especially when he is in the Senate," the President said.

She made the statement during ceremonies in Las Piñas City where the initial batch of land titles were awarded by the government to 3,000 out of more than 10,000 families in barangay CAA.

The country has an estimated housing backlog of 4.7 million units nationwide.

"I am elated that all our efforts to give these families the lots that they have been living on have paid off," said Villar in a press statement. Since he was elected congressman in 1992, he has worked for the awarding of the property to residents on a sprawling 52-hectare government property, which is home to more than 10,000 families.

Villar, along with wife Cynthia, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Secretary Mike Defensor and Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar, assisted the President in handing out the initial batch of certificate of lot allocations.

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Marcos loyalists say they're marginalized

By Blanche S. Rivera

THEIR friends and sponsors may be obscenely rich, but the Marcos loyalists are claiming to be a marginalized sector, deserving of the coveted seats for the under-represented in Congress.

Cherry Cobarrubias, president of the True Marcos Loyalists (for God and Country) of the Philippines, claimed that 99 percent of the 8 million Marcos loyalists all over the country were "very poor" and belonged to the classes C, D and E in justifying her group's running in the May elections.

Cobarrubias lashed out at other party list groups questioning the pro-Marcos group's standing as a marginalized sector.

"They're just insecure because when we get into Congress, they can no longer weave their lies about the Marcoses," Cobarrubias said in a phone interview.

She singled out Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, a party list representative and very vocal critic of the Marcos loyalists, for "not understanding who the real marginalized sector is."

"Does she think she knows better than the Comelec that she's trying to do their job?" Cobarrubias said in Filipino.

Rosales has criticized the Comelec for accrediting the Marcos Loyalists Foundation and other entities, which she said were not legitimate party list groups because they do not represent the marginalized sector.

Cobarrubias, the first nominee of the Marcos Loyalists Foundation for a party list seat in Congress, said campaigning for election has not been all that easy because the group lacks the resources.

She said the Marcoses, who are again mired in controversy because of Irene Marcos-Araneta's recent alleged attempt to launder $13.2 billion in Swiss deposits, have not given the group any money for the elections.

She said "some friends" have offered to help, but the group has not received anything yet.

But Cobarrubias said the loyalists were confident they will be able to obtain financial assistance from their rich friends, if necessary.

She maintained that the controversy involving Irene Marcos-Araneta and her husband, Gregorio III, was "not (our) problem."

"It's obviously a frame-up. (Reiner) Jacobi and (Frank) Chavez have been at it for years, and yet they have not found anything," she said.

Puwersa claims sabotage in Bicol rally setbacks

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

NAGA CITY—The opposition senatorial ticket blamed pro-administration city officials here of sabotaging their campaign rallies.

The pro-Estrada Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa candidates failed to stage their rally at Plaza Quezon here, where major public gatherings are held, and had to settle instead for the smaller Plaza Rizal next to it.

The opposition was also forced to cancel a simultaneous rally in neighboring Iriga City because of heavy rains and a citywide electric blackout that also affected six towns in Camarines Sur.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, a staunch supporter of ousted President Joseph Estrada, accused the mayors of Naga and Iriga cities of sabotaging the LDP-PnM rallies.

He said Naga City Mayor Sulpicio "Cho" Roco denied them the use of Plaza Quezon even though they applied for a permit one week ago.

Villafuerte rejected Roco's excuse that Plaza Quezon had been reserved by a "group of youths" for their "basketball game."

At a news conference at his residence here, Villafuerte said he would sue Roco for denying them a permit to hold their rally at Plaza Quezon.

Roco, for his part, showed reporters a letter from the Sangguniang Kabataan of Barangay Abella dated March 1 requesting use of the plaza from March 25 to April 15 for a sports tournament.

Roco is the younger brother of Education Secretary Raul Roco who is allied with the Macapagal administration.

Roco said he gave the SK permission to use the plaza from March 25 to March 31, in anticipation of the start of the local campaign on March 30.

"I approved the SK's request long before I learned that the LDP-PnM was planning to stage a rally here," he said.

During their rally at the smaller venue, the opposition candidates were occasionally distracted by the loud music coming from Plaza Quezon.

Candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who arrived near the end of the rally, threatened to sue the city government for denying them a permit to use the bigger Plaza Quezon.

"*Idedemanda ko sila. Iaakyat natin sa* Supreme Court *at mananalo tayo sa kasong ito. Tapos ibibilanggo natin ang mga ayaw magbigay ng* permit *dito* (I will sue them. We will take it to the Supreme Court and we shall win. Then we will jail those who refused to give us a permit here), " she declared in her speech.

In contrast, the administration's People Power Coalition staged their campaign rally in this city a couple of weeks ago, yet the streamer bearing the names of its 13 senatorial candidates remains mounted on the stage.

Villafuerte also accused Iriga City Mayor Manuel Alfilor of being behind the citywide blackout last night.

He said he found the timing of the blackout "highly suspicious."

The Camarines Sur Electric Cooperative (Casureco) III, which provides electricity to the fourth district of Camarines Sur, announced the other day that it would cut electricity in Iriga City and six neighboring towns unless they settled their unpaid electric bill amounting to P31 million.

LACSON MANIA. Die-hard supporters give former Philippine National Police chief and opposition senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson a hug during a rally of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa candidates at the Legazpi Astrodome in Legazpi City.

Orly . . .

(From page 1)

laration that the camps overran by the military last year were communities removed "the symbol of defiance."

"This will then become communities for development," she said.

The President said the government would initiate development projects in the fallen MILF camps.

Piñol said fresh violence could erupt in Mindanao because of the Kuala Lumpur agreement.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said if there was anyone, who would cause the eruption of violence, it would be Piñol, whom he accused of harboring anti-Muslim sentiments.

No consultation

Both Mercado and Piñol, in a joint press conference here, said they were supporting the Macapagal administration's peace initiatives but they were concerned by its "eagerness" to appease the MILF without consulting local government units and residents of Mindanao.

Mercado, a senatorial candidate of the opposition's Puwersa ng Masa, said he would stay longer in Mindanao and if necessary leave his senatorial campaign to mobilize people to pressure the government into reviewing the Kuala Lumpur agreement.

Piñol said he was galvanizing support from various local officials and groups in Mindanao in preparation for mass actions against the accord.

He said the mass actions would be broader than the protests generated when the Ramos administration signed the 1996 agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which created the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD).

But Kabalu said Piñol was among the very few people, who think that Mindanao would be better off without Muslims.

"And that's a view everybody finds outrageous because how do you isolate Muslims from Mindanao? In fact, most people know that the only way Mindanao can be developed is for Muslims and Christians to be united," Kabalu said.

"Thinking Muslims and Christians know that Piñol is a kind of guy who would do anything to gain power by sowing dissention among the people," he said.

Piñol also warned that unless the Macapagal administration reviewed the agreement, the administration's People Power Coalition would lose in areas affected by the conflict.

Mercado said it was the MILF's strategy to set up civilian communities so they could use them as "human shields."

By recognizing MILF bases as civilian communities, the Macapagal administration is "denying" the fact that there are military installations, training camps and armed cache in these areas, according to Mercado.

Rewriting history

He said the Macapagal administration appeared to be rewriting history by asserting that ousted President Joseph Estrada and the military committed a mistake when they launched an all-out-war against the MILF.

He said 200 soldiers died in the war because MILF territories were "well fortified."

"Are we saying therefore that when we attacked Abubakar, we attacked a civilian settlement and not military (installations)? Are we asking the military to admit the mistakes (in launching the all-out-war)?" Mercado asked.

He said the war was meant to check the MILF threat since it had expanded its territories in Central Mindanao, controlled public roads and attacked town halls and government installations.

The Mindanao Peace Advocates Conference (MPAC), bishops, *ulama* and human rights groups had denounced the war as a grave mistake. They said civilians ended up the biggest casualties of the war.

The all-out war policy was a mistake because half a million people were displaced, according to MPAC.

Pro-peace groups also noted that the war only revived the feeling of animosity between Christians and Muslims.

Piñol said he and several sectors in North Cotabato found unacceptable Article 4 of the Kuala Lumpur agreement that stated that both the government and MILF peace panels "commit to honor, respect and implement all past agreements and other supplementary agreements signed by them."

Piñol said the provision would in effect honor earlier agreement recognizing several areas in Central Mindanao as MILF camps.

Piñol also said that the provision also allowed the MILF to put up checkpoints on the Narciso Ramos Highway as what they did before the war.

He said government should have exercised "transparency" in the negotiations with the MILF.

"This is causing a lot of apprehension right now among our people," he said.

Piñol said he would resign as governor and concentrate on protesting the peace accord unless the government struck out Article 4.

But Kabalu said there was "nothing secret" about the Kuala Lumpur agreement because what were agreed upon were old points.

"What is new there? We talked of the re-implementation of the General Ceasefire Agreement in 1997. That is not new and there is nothing secret about it. Everyone knows the 1997 accord was for the cessation of hostilities that was in effect until Estrada decided to violate it," he said.

Nur Misuari

Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), who also joined in welcoming the President in Pagadian City, urged the government and the MILF peace panels to sit down in the negotiating table with honest intentions.

The President released to the provincial government of Zamboanga del Sur some P22 million worth of agriculture, housing, electrification and infrastructure projects.

She also gave out P9.6 million worth of agriculture and infrastructure projects for the newly created Zamboanga Sibugay. ***Jowel F. Canuday, Allan A. Nawal and Hernan P. de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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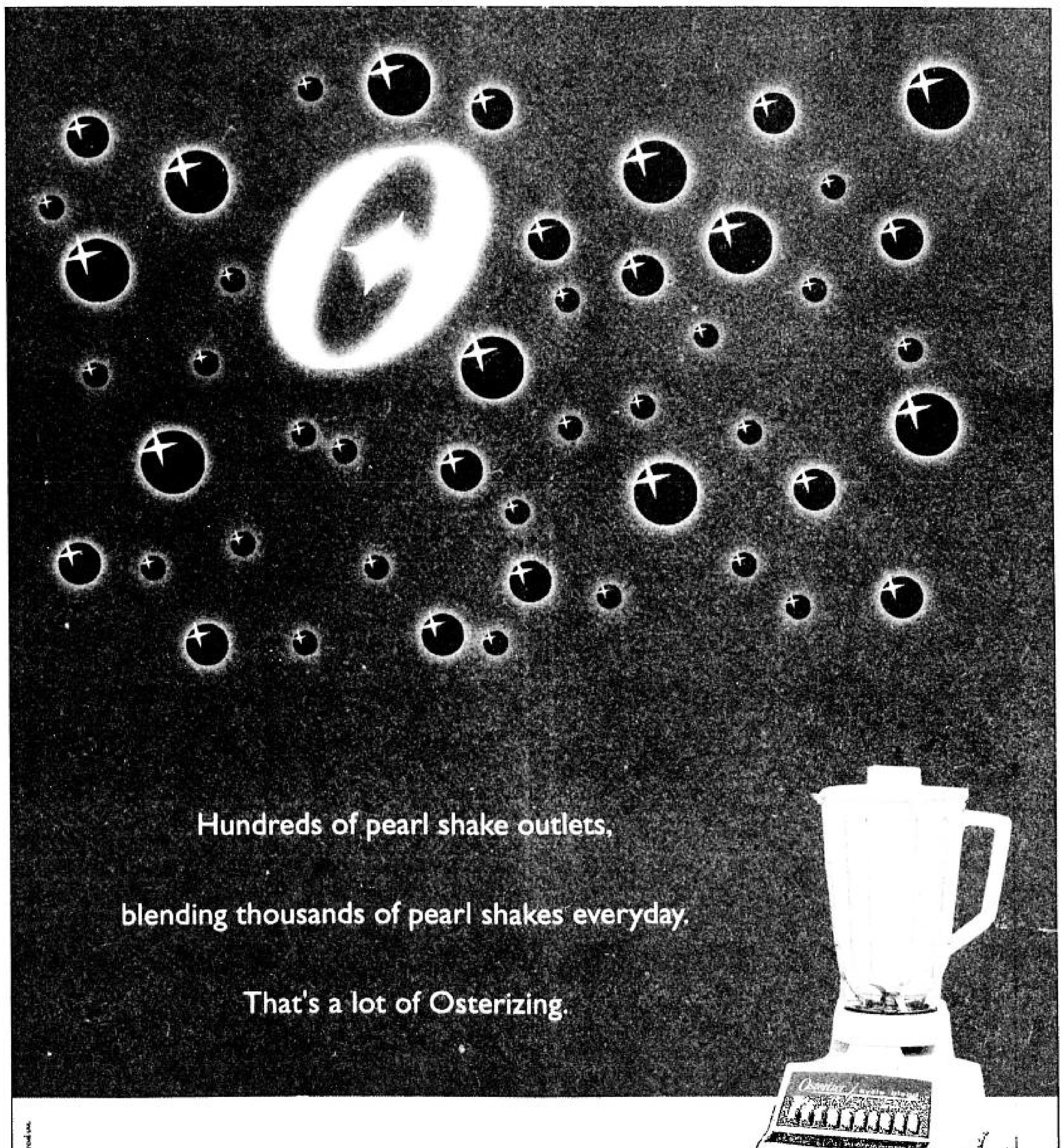

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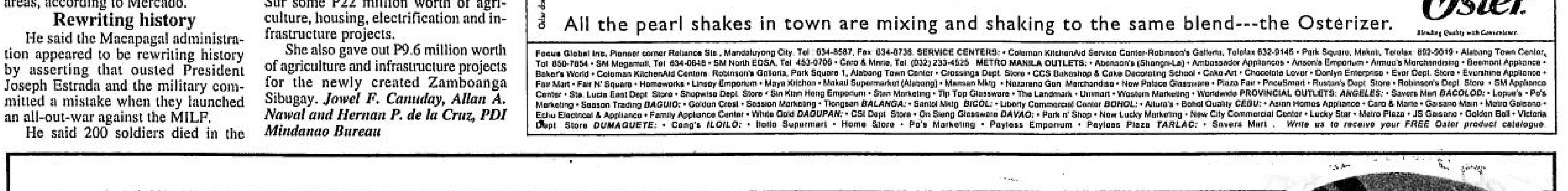

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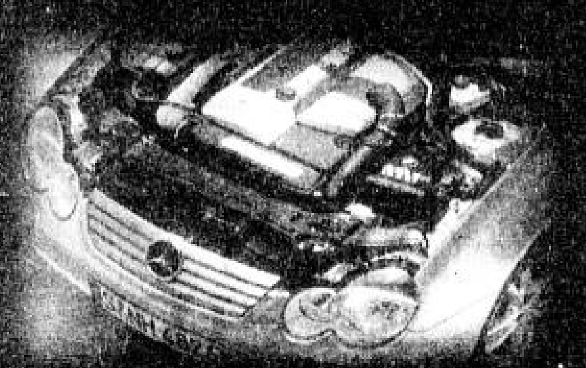

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Stiff opposition to Alvarez at CA expected

(From page A1)

gressman was a "crafty fighter," he would have "a hard time" getting confirmed.

"On the other hand, as you know, the CA has been kinder toward former members of Congress," Ople added.

In an interview over radio dzMM, Alvarez said he remained convinced that a total log ban would not ensure the protection of the country's dwindling forest cover.

He said a total ban might even drive up the prices of wood from P3,000 to P10,000 per cubic meter.

"There are many ways of skinning a cat," Alvarez said, adding that the implementation of existing laws against illegal logging was "more important" than a total ban.

Still, a coalition of multisectoral groups in Quezon province expressed misgivings over Alvarez's appointment.

"Mr. Alvarez has a lot of explaining to do regarding the intrusion of religious cults (into) the confines of the protected area on the mystical Mt. Banahaw," Fr. Raul Enriquez, chair of the Quezon chapter of the Kapatiran at Alyansang Alay para sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan (Kaakbay), said in a statement.

Enriquez said Alvarez had been protecting the cultists' continued stay inside the area, despite the clear violation of forestry laws.

Complaint

Ople said verbal opposition was not sufficient to block the confirmation of an appointee of the President. He said a complaint should be filed with the CA, which would then be referred to the appropriate committee.

It is only upon the concerned committee's favorable recommendation that the appointment will be presented for the approval of the 12 senators and 12 congressmen making up the CA.

A CA member can also invoke a rule that will allow the commission to question any appointment.

Pimentel did not say if he would file a complaint, but he recalled that the CA had once opposed the confirmation of such presidential appointees as Florencio Abad, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Ramon del Rosario.

According to Ople, Alvarez will face a tougher foe if senatorial candidate Orlando Mercado wins in the May 14 elections.

Ople recalled that Mercado and Alvarez, both former senators and former chairs of the Senate environment committee, were at loggerheads over the proposed log ban in Congress.

Alvarez had been partly blamed for the failure of Congress to pass the bill seeking a total ban.

Ople, however, said Alvarez was equipped to deal with opposition.

"Alvarez, you know, is a very crafty fighter. And his wife Cecile is a force in her own right," Ople said.

Alvarez acknowledged that he could meet resistance at the Commission on Appointments. But he expressed optimism that he would eventually be confirmed.

He also denied rumors that his family owned a logging business or that he was close to illegal loggers in Isabela.

Underground

Alvarez said a total log ban would not work in areas where the forest cover had been decimated.

"If you ban something, its price increases. Illegal loggers will only go underground," he said, citing the liquor ban in the United States during the Depression era.

In 1987, Pimentel filed a bill seeking a total ban on logging.

Alvarez, who had then pushed for a selective ban, yesterday said the measure was similar to "martial law in the forest."

He said recent studies showed that "comprehensive protection of the forest" was a better solution than a total ban.

He pointed out that the trend now was "sustainable development" of the forest.

"We don't anymore talk about a total, selective, or partial log ban," he said.

Alvarez said that under this new approach, a forest was treated as a "garden" where "you take what you want, without decimating it completely."

In this way, he said, key areas of the forest were left completely untouched and the other areas were maintained for "planting and harvesting."

He said these "production forests" would not only provide wood supply but also serve as an "oxygen factory."

Alvarez said the country should use this approach to attain self-sustainability in wood supply, considering that it was now yearly importing $300 million worth of wood or wood-based products.

But he said sensitive forest areas should be kept free of logging activities to maintain bio-diversity and ensure continued water supply.

"There should be a total ban on logging in virgin forests, watershed areas, sanctuaries, and fine forests," he stressed.

Warning

Kaakbay's Enriquez said certain environmentalist groups in Quezon were still trying to persuade the cultists to leave the protected area on Banahaw.

"But with Alvarez's appointment (as environment secretary), we're sure that we will be back to square one of the issue," he said.

Enriquez said his group would "mobilize all our efforts" to block Alvarez's confirmation.

"May this serve as a warning to Mr. Alvarez," Enriquez said. ***With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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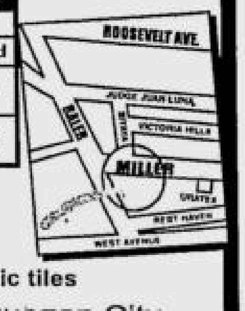

Bush claims . . .

(From page A1)

give him a tough time for mangling the English language just aren't savvy enough to keep pace with his linguistic brilliance.

"If they would read it closely they would see I'm using the transitive plural tense so the word, is, are correct," Bush joked at the Radio and Television Correspondents' Association annual dinner Thursday night.

Standing in front of many of those who have made an issue of his trouble with words, he gave a comedic, but impassioned defense of the "Bushism," reciting a hefty sampling of his past verbal missteps.

His audience loved it, proving perhaps, as Bush deadpanned, that journalists should be grateful for his presidency.

Among Bush's notable quotes are:

"You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test."

"The legislature's job is to write law. It's the executive branch's job to interpret law."

"I will have a foreign-handed foreign policy."

"I understand small business growth. I was one."

"Home is important. It's important to have a home."

"The California crunch really is the result of not enough power-generating plants and then not enough power to power the power of generating plants."

Bush attributed some of his ingenuity to his strong religious faith. He recalled the first time he chatted with Attorney General John Ashcroft. Ashcroft thought he was speaking in tongues, Bush said.

The speech was Bush's third attempt in recent weeks to make jokes about his stumbles. At a dinner sponsored last week by the Gridiron Club, a 116-year-old media institution, he told the audience that he is smart enough to map the human genome. Earlier Thursday, he used the word "misunderestimate"—and then told reporters he was warming up for his speech.

And it's not just his genius as a wordsmith that reporters should applaud, Bush said. It's the power of his ideas.

"I know human beings and fish can coexist," Bush said, quoting himself. "You see, anyone can give you a coherent sentence. But this takes things to an entirely different dimension."

Later, Bush adopted a serious tone, and told the audience to keep his verbal glitches in perspective.

"You know what? Life goes on," Bush said. "My wife and kids still love me. The military still protects our shores. People still go out and have fun, like we're doing here tonight."

Then he thanked the crowd for their "horspitality." ***Report from AP***

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, March 31, 2001
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading:	*Jer 11:18-20*
Gospel:	*Jn 7:40-53*

Many who had been listening to the words of Jesus began to say, "This is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some wondered, "Would the Christ come from Galilee? Doesn't Scripture say that the Christ is *a descendant of David* and *from Bethlehem, the city of David?*" The crowd was divided over him. Some wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers of the Temple went back to the chief priests who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him?" The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man." The Pharisees then said, "So you, too, have been led astray! Have any of the rulers or any of the Pharisees believed in him? Only these cursed people, who have no knowledge of the Law!"

Yet one of them, Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier, spoke out, "Does our law condemn people without first hearing them and knowing the facts?" They replied, "Do you, too, come from Galilee? Look it up and see for yourself that no prophet is to come from Galilee."

And they all went home.

Commentary

What a controversy! The crowds were divided over Jesus. Some believed in him, as he spoke with great authority supported by works of love and justice like the prophets of old. But others belittled him, knowing of his lowly origins from rustic Galilee and even from the very small village of Nazareth. After all, John had reported earlier that Nathanael before becoming a disciple had a similar scornful attitude to Jesus, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Such attitude was even more pronounced among the religious leaders who could not reach a consensus. That is why, each simply went to his own house. A heart that is closed to seeking the truth can never transcend the cultural conditionings of times and places of God's messengers. Remove the biased lenses and you'll see revelations of truth from the least you expect.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY)—Robbery with homicide—In robbery with homicide, the prosecution must prove the following elements: (1) the taking of personal property with the use of violence or intimidation against a person; (2) the property thus taken belongs to another; (3) the taking is characterized by *animus lucrandi*; and (4) on the occasion of the robbery or by reason thereof, the crime of homicide, as used in its generic sense, was committed. In robbery with homicide, the principal purpose of the accused must be shown to commit robbery, the homicide being committed either by reason of, or on occasion of the robbery. The homicide may precede or occur after the robbery. What is essential is that there is a nexus, an intimate connection between robbery and the killing, whether the latter be prior or subsequent to the former, or whether both crimes be committed at the same time. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Barreta, G.R. No. 120367, October 16, 2000]

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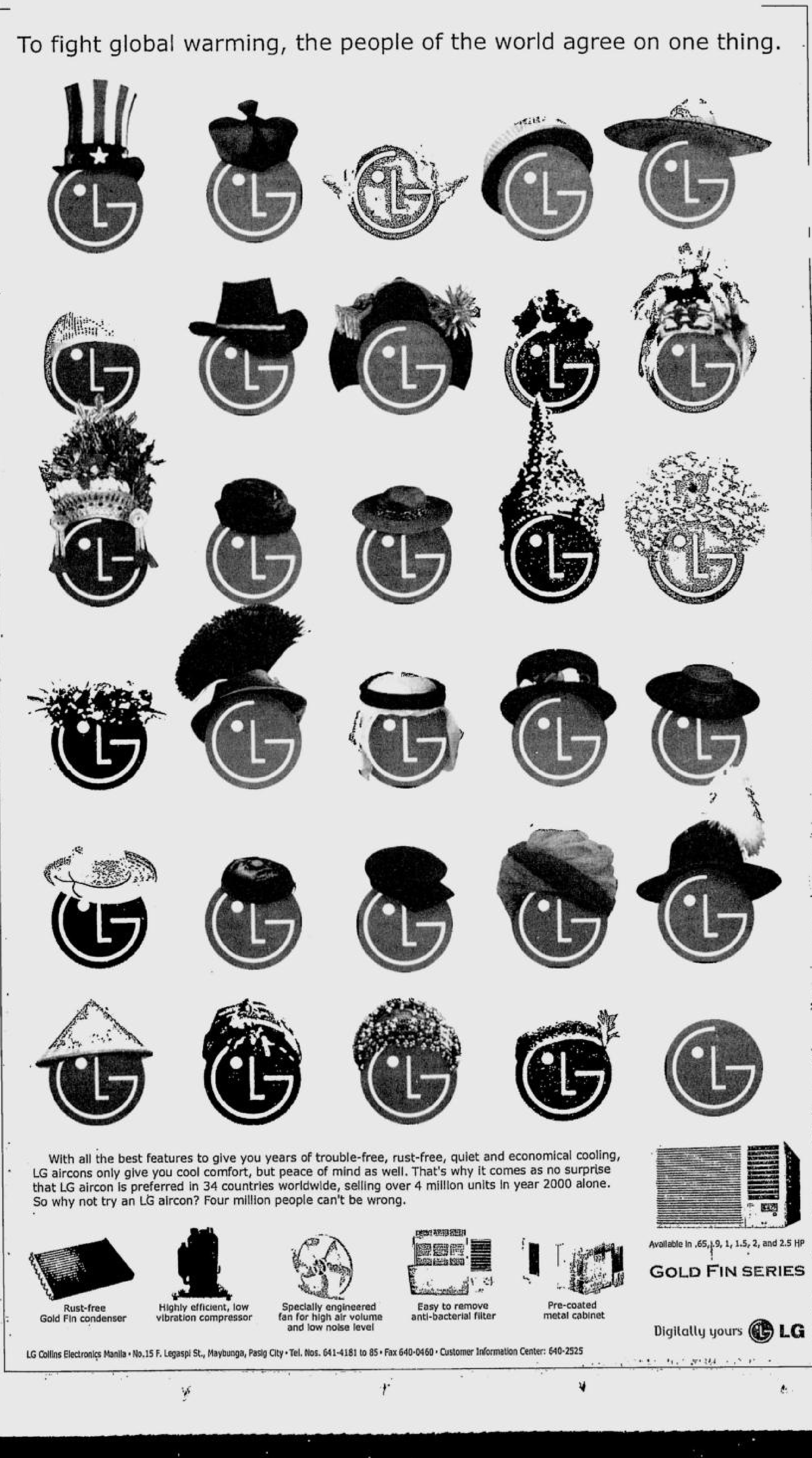
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OPINION

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Peace through dialogue

EDITORIAL

IN JUST two months, the "all-out war" policy of deposed President Joseph Estrada has taken a 180-degree turn. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has not only officially declared a policy shift that emphasizes negotiations, rather than armed confrontation, as an approach to end the Muslim separatist rebellion in Mindanao. The other day, the government announced the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Kuala Lumpur.

Parallel to the track it has taken on the MILF conflict, the government has indicated its willingness to revive peace talks with the National Democratic Front even in a third country.

From these two developments, we can see a total picture of a dialogue-driven peace process. But two ticklish questions have been raised over the new policy direction. The first concerns the status of the more than 40 military camps seized by the Armed Forces during the Mindanao war. The second has something to do with sovereignty.

Doubts over the resolution of the first issue were cleared when President Macapagal emphasized in her speech at the Manila Overseas Press Club the other night that the camps will not be returned to the MILF. Ms Macapagal acknowledged that the camps were seized at great cost in terms of the lives of soldiers and gave the assurance that "we will not do anything to waste the sacrifices of these brave men and women."

This statement could only have calmed unease in the military over the question of the status of the camps. She said the MILF panel at the Kuala Lumpur talks never asked for the return of the camps. However, she said the dislocated Muslim inhabitants of the camps would be allowed to return to normal life and again engage in productive activities.

It would have been a foolish move to return the camps to the MILF. The seizure of the camps put the government in a position of strength in the negotiations for a political settlement with the MILF. Giving them back to the MILF could also have created demoralization in the Armed Forces, an institution whose support Ms Macapagal needs to consolidate her administration.

The camps have been given a new description—"Muslim communities"—where the government and the MILF would be partners in economic development. Retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser on the peace process, said that the Armed Forces would maintain its outposts in the camps, and rebels would return without arms.

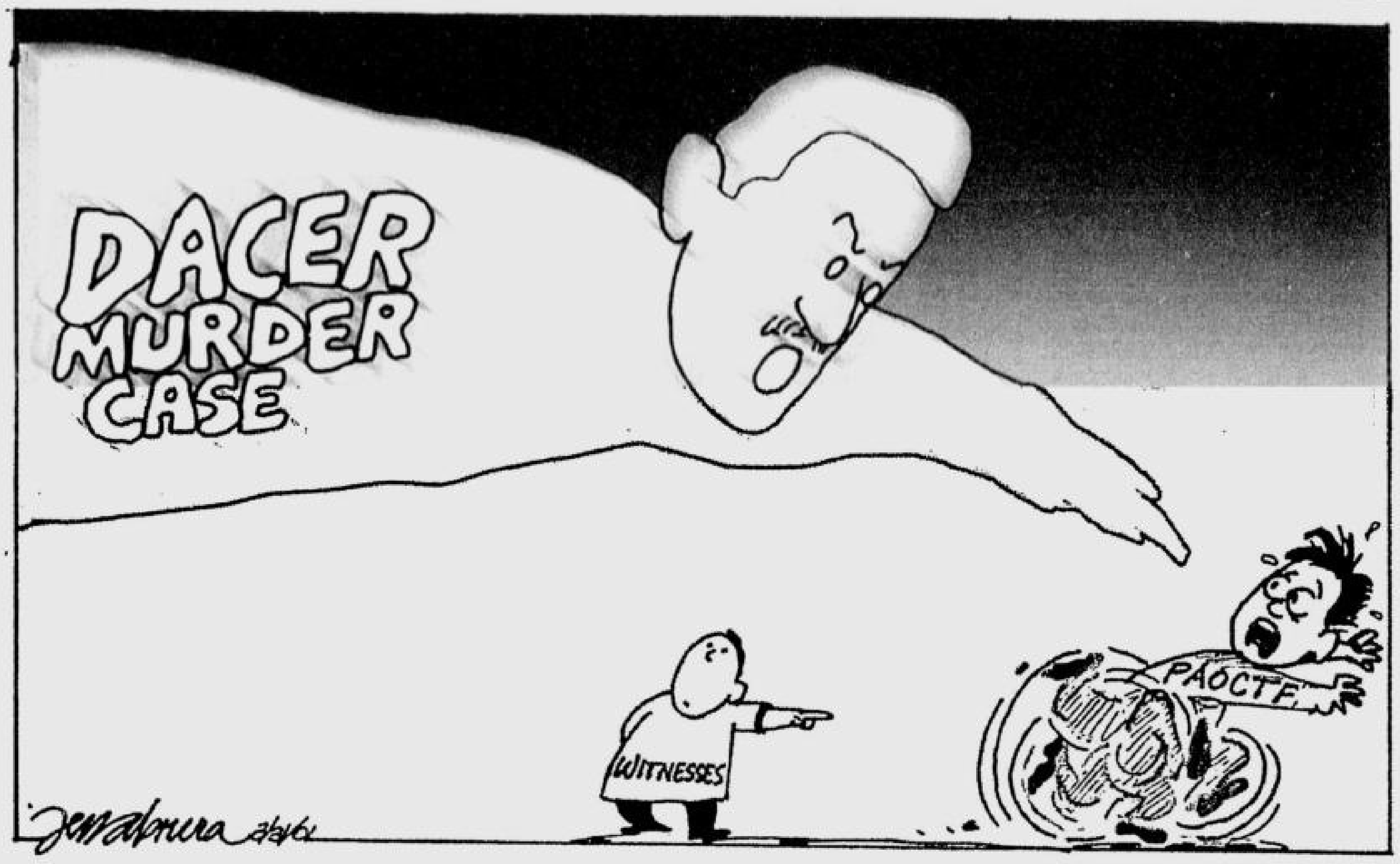
The arrangement appears to have dispelled anxieties inside the military about the return of the camps to the MILF. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said, "Our soldiers are aware that their job is to implement policy. They don't make policies." Indicating he accepted the new policy, Reyes said: "Our end product here is peace. That is what our soldiers are fighting for. We don't fight wars to continue wars. We fight our wars so there will be peace."

With that clarification, Ms Macapagal has fortified her flanks against military unrest over the policy change. More importantly, the new policy establishes an environment conducive to building mutual confidence and negotiations.

The conversion of the camp areas, which are rich in natural resources, into productive zones, however, has a long way to go. Domestic resources for financing economic projects are meager. Official Development Assistance (ODA) has been frozen owing to the conflict and the incapacity of the government to match foreign funds earmarked for the projects.

The accent on Mindanao has also political significance. It signals Ms Macapagal's intention to erode lingering loyalty to Estrada in that region.

The issue of sovereignty is more imagined than real. In the history of resolving conflict in Mindanao since the Marcos years, foreign intervention has always been salient. The Organization of Islamic Conference has played a key role in mediating the conflict. The Islamic states of Indonesia and Libya have facilitated negotiations in the Moro wars of the 1970s and the conflict with the Moro National Liberation Front in the 1980s and early 1990s. Jakarta and Tripoli were venues for talks brokered by the OIC. In no way was national sovereignty compromised in those talks. By the same token, it's hard to argue that the recent Kuala Lumpur accords or the offer of Malaysia to host the revived peace talks represent an impairment of Philippine sovereignty.



Censorship again

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

But according to the US Supreme Court, anyone claiming the right to censor has the burden of proving its necessity. In other words, censorship is not the rule but the exception, to be justified by the censor

I DO not know former MTRCB chief Nicanor Tiongson although I'd be happy to meet him someday. I also have not seen "Live Show," but I hope to find out for myself if it is really that objectionable.

On principle, I support Tiongson and the banned movie. I'm against all forms of censorship as a restriction of the human mind.

I regard Tiongson as a kindred spirit for opposing the suppression of the protested film. But I cannot understand why, for all his broadmindedness, he accepted the position of censor in the first place.

Milton couldn't have been more right when he declared the impossibility of finding a man base enough to accept the office of censor and at the same time good enough to perform its duties.

For the censor is an officious fellow who would be the people's moral, artistic and political arbiter. He presumes to tell us what we should and should not say, the things we should or should not accept, and what is good for our eternal soul.

The reason for his insolence is the conceit that he knows better than the rest of us ordinary mortals. Unlike him, we are not blessed with his extraordinary saintliness, political acumen and artistic taste.

It is all hogwash, of course.

The censor, whatever his credentials, has no business dictating what thinking persons should cherish in the inviolate realm of ideas, where the hostile thought is as free as the conventional and banal.

Freedom of expression is enshrined in our Constitution as the bedrock of our democratic society. The first of the two elements of that guaranty is the right against censorship.

Voltaire was melodramatic when he said, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Holmes was more mellow but no less forceful when he defended "not only the thought that agrees with us but also the thought that we abhor."

And inscribed in the hearts of all libertarians are Jefferson's immortal words: "I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility to every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

How can the government, in the narrowness of its views, ignore these great lessons from the argonauts of individual freedom? Shall we act like "dumb, driven cattle" and yield our precious liberties to the Pharisees among us?

Censorship *per se* is not absolutely prohibited for there may be situations where it may be justified. Government screening of private correspondence, for example, may be necessary when the country is at war.

But according to the US Supreme Court, anyone claiming the right to censor has the burden of proving its necessity. In other words, censorship is not the rule but the exception, to be justified by the censor.

Thus, in the celebrated case of New York Times v. US, 376 US 254, the attempt to prevent publication of classified papers stolen from the Pentagon failed because the government could not show that their suppression would endanger the national security.

In this country, we are not as liberal. The Supreme Court has sustained censorship even without any immediate threat to the public welfare, let alone the more demanding national security.

In Iglesia ni Cristo v. Court of Appeals, 259 SCRA 529, the Court, over several dissents, sustained the power of the MTRCB to review and, whenever necessary prohibit, the telecasting of the petitioner's programs.

Justice Teodoro Padilla, one of the dissenters, wrote:

"It is far better for the individual to live in a climate of free speech and expression, devoid of prior restraints, even at the risk of occasional excesses of such freedom, than to exist in an ambience of censorship which is always a step closer to autocracy and dictatorship."

In 1994, the MTRCB ordered the snipping of portions of the movie "Schindler's List" on the ground of obscenity. The producer considered pulling out the film entirely in protest against the censorship.

Fortunately, the Office of the President reversed the order and the picture was released for public exhibition. The fears expressed by the censors of its possible adverse effect upon the public did not materialize.

The supposed indecent scenes did not titillate the audience. The people who viewed them did not go berserk. No sexual orgies followed. On the contrary, the story caused a deep revulsion of the Nazis' bestiality and an ineffable sadness that their ghastly evil was still possible in this civilized age.

Tiongson was right to resign. In fact, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board should be abolished.

Meeting deadlines

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

SEN. Vicente Sotto, chair of the Senate committee on electoral reform, hit the nail on the head when he said that if there is a lesson to be learned from the controversy over the proposal to hold a special registration for the youth, it is that people must follow the deadlines set by government. Other politicians, including deposed President Estrada, echoed the sentiment and blamed the youth for not being responsible enough to make sure they could register on time.

Point well taken, we must say. The whole controversy indeed was not about the four million youth being sure votes for the administration candidates or about the Commission on Elections' or the opposition's refusal to recognize the right of suffrage of these young people. The issue is simply about time or, as Sotto put it, the imperative of meeting deadlines.

On the one hand, the youth failed to register for reasons whether valid or not; on the other hand, the Comelec did not have the luxury of time. It is in fact on the basis of the latter that the idea was shelved.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo explained that holding the special registration would entail more work for the Comelec, which was already way over its head with preparations for the May elections. He admitted that the Comelec was already behind schedule. Accommodating the special registration therefore would have necessitated the postponement of the May elections—an event which all parties concede would be more risky than disfranchising some four million youth.

If the Comelec had more time, if it were not cramming to overcome its backlogs, Benipayo would have agreed to the holding of the special registration. So the question to be asked is: Why in the first place is the Comelec in this quandary? Even its much-vaunted Mapping System for Voters, which it prioritized over the computerization of the elections for lack of time and funds, is not yet finished. It is also reported that some electoral disputes in the 1998 elections are still unresolved to this day. People are naturally asking how the Comelec spends time and whether between the last elections and the elections this year, it did not have sufficient time to implement its modernization programs.

Without going into the Comelec's own share of inefficiency and ineptitude, it was clear that, at least for the elections this May, the preparations were delayed because the Comelec's budget for the elections (not to mention the 2001 government budget) was long in coming. Congress had to approve a special budget of P2.4 billion just so the elections would push through. But this came only in the last week of January!

Sotto therefore should realize that part of the blame for this whole electoral mess—in fact, a large part of it—must go to Congress. More to the point, he must find himself accountable for this debacle especially because he heads the Senate committee on electoral reform. Shouldn't he have foreseen these electoral problems in the light of the impeachment trial late last year which derailed the chamber's agenda?

Indeed, Congress can always say that last year's impeachment trial distracted its members from deliberating on urgent issues such as the May elections and the budget. They were so caught up in the trial that the Comelec had to extend the deadlines for the registration of candidates running in the elections.

But this argument falls flat on its face. For one thing, it can also be used by the four million disfranchised youth to explain their inability to comply with the Comelec deadlines. In fact, many people were not sure then whether the elections would push through. The impeachment trial polarized the country; there was even talk that the situation would deteriorate into civil disobedience, if not civil war. What was the use of the voters' registration then?

Secondly, we remember that during the trial, regular sessions in both chambers of Congress continued, with the Senate holding theirs in the morning while the impeachment trial was held in the afternoon. The daily impeachment proceedings also showed that if Congress wanted to do something, it can be done. It boils down to political will.

The point therefore is that even if the debacle over the special registration was about time constraints and deadlines, our lawmakers are themselves in no position to pontificate about time management and the duties and responsibilities of the youth. They were part of this problem to begin with.

Secondly, their own time management is hardly immaculate. In the House, for instance, an all too familiar sight is that of empty seats as the roll call is being made.

Thirdly, Congress (and this also goes for the whole government) has been notoriously remiss in meeting its own deadlines. For instance, it has yet to pass measures banning political dynasties and one providing for a mechanism on absentee voting for Filipino migrant workers. The Comelec, on the other hand, has yet to deliver on its mandate to modernize the conduct of elections starting with the computerization of the counting and canvassing of ballots. More importantly, Congress has yet to flesh out many provisions of the 1986 Constitution especially those that provide for the social welfare of the poor.

Sotto wants the people to follow the deadlines set by government. But before this, the government should meet its own deadlines. That is called leadership by example and that is what government officials like Sotto can teach the young, including the four million who were disfranchised.

Benign Benipayo vs cantankerous Tancangco

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

COLUMNIST Max Soliven recently complained about the propensity of the local movie industry toward excessive sex and violence. It's easy to see why for these ingredients make the biggest box-office draw. But it's time movies reverted to their role as potent instruments for uplifting the nation's spirits and standards, and if our directors and producers are looking for inspiring blockbuster plots, nothing can beat heroism. In the United States, the all-time crowd-drawer was one extolling heroism, "The Audie Murphy Story."

Here we have a heroic tale in the story of 27-year-old Air Force pilot Lt. Grace Baloyo, who recently lost her life in Pampanga in an effort to steer the troubled OV-10 plane she was piloting away from crowded residential areas. Her co-pilot saved herself by ejecting from the plane, but Baloyo was killed when the plane slammed into the ground. She saved so many lives on the ground. What made her story even sadder was that the pretty Ilongga pilot was scheduled to marry a fellow officer next year.

We have very few heroes and heroines in our midst. A movie about this PAF heroine would be truly inspiring to the young people. Our deepest condolences to her family.

* * *

Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes wrote in reaction to my column about the "Mitra-Peña return bout" in that province. Reyes agrees that Baham Mitra, 31, the late Monching Mitra's youngest son and heir, is leading former Natural Resources Minister Teddy Peña, 68, in the fight for the second district's congressional seat, as shown by a survey commissioned by an influential Puerto Princesa group last month. But Reyes corrected a statement here that he was running as a Lakas independent, and that the battle for the gubernatorial post is neck-and-neck between him, former Deputy Speaker Amor Abueg and Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn. Reyes says that he is the provincial chair of Lakas and the official Lakas-NUCD-Kampi gubernatorial candidate in Palawan. He added that the same survey indicated that 60 percent of the respondents would vote for him, against 24.4 percent for Abueg and 14.8 percent for Hagedorn, who is deposed President Estrada's candidate. Reyes also said that a Malacañang commissioned survey last month showed 42 percent going for him, 24 percent for Abueg and 8 percent for Hagedorn.

* * *

At the birthday celebration of former President Ramos at the plush RCBC Plaza in Makati, Sen. Rene Cayetano was still quite upset over what he considered to be Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo's *urong-sulong* attitude toward the special registration of as many as 4.5 million young voters. Cayetano felt that Benipayo first led the senators to think there was hope, since during the first day of the special session of Congress called specifically for this purpose, the latter said that it was "doable." On the second session day, said Cayetano, Benipayo was saying it was "difficult but not impossible." But on the third day, he met with the senators and told them bluntly that a special registration was impossible to do, unless the elections were postponed to June 7. To the senators, postponing the elections was a no-no.

Benipayo's flip-flopping has given rise to speculation that former Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa "got to him." Benipayo, who was court administrator during Narvasa's tenure, stoutly denied this when he met our media group over lunch last week. He admitted that Narvasa is his friend and they play golf, "but never at any single time did he ask me for a favor."

* * *

Actually I have heard it said, and with justification, that the Palace ought to have called Benipayo first and threshed out the matter with him instead of calling for a special session right away. That way the Palace could have saved itself from embarrassment and the government would have saved itself the expense of holding the special session and pulling the legislators from the campaign trail. A lot of citizens feel bad about the disfranchisement of the youth, but this is a minor thing really compared to the possibility of flawed elections.

As it is, things aren't really looking good because of the ongoing intramurals between the Estrada-appointed Tancangco group and the Macapagal-appointed Benipayo group. Why should there be two groups working at cross-purposes? Aren't the Comelec commissioners all working for one country? What is happening there is truly sad.

* * *

Over lunch, we media women could see the heavy load the benign Benipayo, who's totally new to the job, carries. When he came in, there were only 85 days before the elections, and on his fifth day on the job, he had to undergo surgery as one artery was 80 percent blocked, while two others were 50 percent blocked!

Benipayo related that before he met with the senators on that third afternoon, he prayed at the Manila Cathedral and asked God to "get me out of here." He explained that before he made his final decision not to have the special registration, he met with his senior staffers and they told him bluntly that if the registration pushed through, all preparations for the elections would have to be suspended. They said the soonest the registration could be held would be May 21. This was because the printing alone of over nine million registration forms would take 10 days, and they would have to be verified one by one by serial number. In addition, inclusion-exclusion proceedings would have to be conducted before the municipal trial courts during the Holy Week, but where does one get lawyers during that time? To begin with, many courts don't even have judges now.

* * *

To get the registration going, 15,000 new precincts would have had to be created, requiring an additional 45,000 teachers and 15,000 new ballot boxes. But even without the registration, the preparations for the elections are already nightmarish, due in part to the numerous intramurals that the cantankerous Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco seems to attract like a lightning rod.

What surprises anyone listening to Benipayo's recitation of woes is why so many things were left unattended during the time of his predecessor, Harriet Demetriou. For instance, when we met with Benipayo, more than 80,000 ballot boxes still had to be ordered to complete the 250,000 needed. Some people opine that Demetriou did not want to be controversial or go against Tancangco as she was more interested in getting appointed to the Supreme Court.

When this electoral exercise is over, let's hope Benipayo can straighten things out for 2004. The way he views it, even if the youth were not able to register, there's a lot they can do to help in the coming elections. For one thing, he said, they can help watch the polls, and with the near-pandemonium these elections promise, that has become an urgent necessity. In addition, the youth could go out and help educate the people on the issues. Indeed, so much can be done instead of merely wringing our hands.

Political uncertainty in Indonesia

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bhimanto Suwastoyo

JAKARTA—President Abdurrahman Wahid may have won a little time in his fight to stay in post, but the battle has further antagonized a hostile parliament and left Indonesia facing months of confusion and instability, analysts said Thursday.

MPs from the country's major parties united in their disdain for Wahid after he protested his innocence against corruption charges Wednesday in a reply to a parliamentary censure motion.

"There was nothing new in his reply, he is still using his old strategy, one that is certainly not effective in helping him fend off impeachment," political analyst Andi Mallarangeng told AFP.

Instead of taking a more conciliatory approach toward MPs determined to unseat him, Wahid had further antagonized them by dumping the blame on them, he added.

Wahid on Wednesday rejected the motion brought against him by the lower house (DPR) on Feb. 1 for his alleged role in two financial scandals, saying a parliamentary probe was illegal, and the memorandum unwarranted.

Political observer Kastorius Sinaga said Wahid had wasted an opportunity "to cool down the political temperature" especially in his relationship with the hostile MPs. "The chance for more lobbying at the political leadership level seems to have been lost because of the hostility between them," he said.

"It is clear that the DPR members appear unsatisfied with both his reply and with him, and are now more determined to push for a second memorandum," said Sinaga, who is also the secretary of a anti-corruption group.

MPs from the main political parties have already said they will move to issue a second censure against Wahid, which would open the way for a special session of the national assembly with the power to impeach him. The whole process is expected to drag on for around five months.

"He has not made more friends at the DPR with his reply," said Mallarangeng.

But at least one thing was certain: Wahid will have until April 30, when the house is due to debate his reply, to appease some of his opponents in the house, he added. After that, if a second censure is issued, Wahid will have another month to reply before the DPR can call for the special session, which would take two months to prepare.

"The country will be plunged into another period of uncertainty as the power struggle continues," the Jakarta Post Daily glumly predicted in an editorial entitled "What Next?"

It said MPs had already made up their minds long before Wahid's address on Wednesday and "it mattered little whether the president was involved in the two scandals or otherwise."

Wahid "was not far off the mark in concluding that his censure by the legislature and the investigation of corruption allegations against him was nothing more than an attempt to oust him," it added. "It was never a real attempt to call him to account."

The Kompas daily hailed Wahid's call for MPs to end the "tiresome" political bickering which has only added to the people's suffering. But "the question is how far that offer is going to be taken up," it said in an editorial.

During Wednesday's session, an MP from the Golkar Party of former President Suharto urged Wahid to calm his supporters and get them to halt their "harassment and intimidation" of MPs and those who held differing political views.

Thousands of Wahid supporters from his Muslim political base, the Nahdlatul Ulama, have been rallying in the capital in a show of force. Their failure to show up at the parliament on Wednesday cheered the politically battered financial markets, but brokers said they saw no real recovery in the rupiah and the stock market—both at two year lows—until the political impasse ends.

AFP

Historic buildings

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THERE is a dearth of publications on historical or architecturally important buildings in this country. And in the event that these are photographed and see print, no personal reminiscences are included by people who were directly involved or concerned with them.

Some years ago, Newsweek's Book Division came out with a series of books about sites and cities that have influenced mankind such as the Kremlin, the Great Wall, Venice, etc. More than stunning photographs and prints, what made the book memorable was the last chapter that included letters, comments and articles written by people with personal knowledge of the place. What otherwise would have been a simple run-of-the-mill account became a highly interesting document with the addition of human-interest details.

It is possible that the reason we do not identify with the built environment in this country and couldn't care less whether an old building continues to stand or not is that without the humanity, no matter its aesthetic value, it does not touch us. Take Malacañang, for example. What do we know of the people who once occupied its rooms except for the most ordinary details? What about heartbreak or anger or lust? Who got seduced in its gardens, or closets for that matter? There's R. Hidalgo and a few remaining ancestral homes. Sure they're important architecturally, but who cares except for a handful of people? Beyond technical details the public has no personal knowledge of the people who once lived in them or events that might have taken place in them. What does anyone know of Gregoria de Jesus, except that she was once married to Andres Bonifacio? As a result old buildings are nothing else but that—old.

A few days ago, there was the unveiling of a portrait of Paul D. MacNutt, the last US high commissioner and the first US ambassador to the Philippines, donated by his family to the Department of State. What was no more than another official function was enlivened by the account of Ralph Graves, one of the speakers, who as a stepson of US High Commissioner Francis Sayre, once lived in the building. I have taken liberties with the speech due to space constraints but have tried to retain its essence. I beg the author's indulgence.

His parents felt that the building had been designed more like a Federal prison than an embassy residence and "whenever it rained—and we quickly learned that it rained often in Manila—the water poured under those tall French doors. I can still remember the horde of houseboys in their starched red, white and blue uniforms piling sheets and towels against the doors."

"At first I found it embarrassing to be the high commissioner's son," Graves continued. "I was 15 years old, and nobody had ever called me sir. I had grown up independent, used to doing everything for myself. Now if I lifted a suitcase, a houseboy sprang forward saying, 'I help you with that, sir.' Worst of all was playing tennis, which I loved but didn't play very well. I didn't like ballboys watching me, and I certainly did not like them picking up tennis balls and bringing them to me. I hated it. I really could pick up a tennis ball all by myself.

"But my younger brother and I loved the Embassy, which in those days was also the Residence. For myself, it was the first home I had ever seen with a private, self-operating elevator. When I brought my girlfriend over to the Embassy, the only place I could take her for privacy and intimacy, away from the eyes of all the houseboys, was inside the elevator. I could make it stop between floors. In those far-off innocent days, I am sorry to confess that nothing very wicked happened in the elevator, but both my girl and I thought it was romantic.

"My younger brother Bill enjoyed a different aspect of the Embassy. He was crazy about darts that he made up of matchsticks, needles and paper. He would stand on one of the little ballroom balconies and throw his darts up toward the vaulted ceiling and watch them turn in the air, zoom down and land far below in the parquet floor. Later a friend taught him how to make a dart-launcher out of a spring clothespin. Then he could stand down on the floor and fire his darts up into the ceiling, where a number of them stuck in the plaster. They were impossible for the houseboys to reach, but since they were also hard to see from floor level, nobody ever bothered about them.

"As I'm sure many of you know, after the war General Yamashita was tried in this ballroom as a Japanese war criminal. As you probably don't know, during the entire period of the trial, Yamashita was kept prisoner in my brother's and my bedroom.

"In late 1944 I returned to the Philippines as an Air Force sergeant. I made my way out here through the rubble-filled streets to visit my old home. Because it had been occupied by high-ranking Japanese soldiers, it had been heavily bombed by American planes. The entire front of the building was shattered. Much of the building was rubble, but the ballroom—this room—was in surprisingly good shape. In spite of all the bombs and shocks, the big vaulted ceiling had survived. And way up there in the ceiling, where only a real insider would think to look, two of my brother's darts still hung there in the plaster."

No one who heard Graves speak that afternoon would ever be able to view the embassy ballroom with the same eyes.

* * *

Comments are welçome at bambiharper@hotmail,com

Priests and me

YOUNGBLOOD

Frederick B. Dulay

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

TO BE a priest—that was my childhood dream. Unfortunately, it would remain just that, one of the many things left unfulfilled among the goals I have set in my lifetime.

Today, all of 28 years, I still entertain the idea of one day becoming a prince of the church, albeit with little fascination and some reservations. I still debate with my mother what would have happened had I become a priest. Would I become pope one day? Would I ask the flock to rally and oust rogue leaders in the manner of Jaime Cardinal Sin? But all these questions will never be answered now.

My fascination about priests and the priesthood dates as far back as when I was not even old enough to receive Holy Communion. Brought to the church every Sunday by my mother, I observed intently as the priest said Mass. I was awed by the purity of the man in white as he raised the chalice and said, "This is my blood, the blood of a new and everlasting covenant. Do this in memory of me." And who wouldn't marvel at the power of the priest to gather so many people to hear Mass? This, plus the admiration and respect a priest enjoyed during those times set me to thinking that one day I would also become a priest.

Alas, I would never set foot in a seminary, except during the times when I went to visit my brother who was then a seminarian. I tried to convince my parents to let me enter the seminary. But my mother told me that sending me there to study was beyond our family's means. She assured me, however, that if after I finished my secondary education I still had that fire in me, then she would do everything to get me into the seminary.

So I started secondary school without much fervor and interest. My best friend was in the seminary, and four others in our batch were also studying there. I envied all of them.

It didn't take long before my fascination for the priesthood started to wane. In second year, I stopped going to church and became an agnostic.

It was also during my high school days that I started to ridicule priests and regarded them with little respect. Gone were the days when I kissed the hands of the priest when I met him on the street.

It was also during those times that alternative churches started sprouting in our province. So-called born-again Christians surfaced and their congregations grew. Satanism also started to become popular, but the good still won over evil.

When I was halfway through college, one of my brothers (actually the one next to me) entered the seminary. That made me feel bad since I recalled that I was denied the same opportunity. Still I was one with the rest the family in hoping that one day we would have a brother who would be a priest or even a bishop.

I continued to pursue my college degree. And even as I envied my brother, I told myself I would support him when the time comes for him to take his vows. We even had some kind of a compact that no one among us would get married until the time my younger brother would be ordained a priest.

Unfortunately, we didn't get to see the day. Six years into his formation, he came home one day never to return again to the seminary.

That episode prompted me to tell my mother in jest that had she only allowed me to enter the seminary, she would have had a priest for a son by now.

But even if there are times when I feel my fascination for priesthood returning, my desire to be priest is not as strong as it was before. In fact, I am starting to suspect that I have come to regard the priestly life as an escape from the harsh realities of life and my own weaknesses.

Sometimes, when I feel so alone and disturbed, I have this sudden longing to become a priest. When I feel helpless about my job and feel that I am not being productive in my work, I feel the urge to enter the priesthood.

When I don't get the woman I want, the more I am convinced that I must have a vocation. At one point in my life, I even thought I was a priest reincarnated.

But this thing about priesthood, I now consider with a lot of reservations. I am enjoying life, I cannot live on bread alone even if it has butter. I doubt if I can keep the vow of celibacy, and this is probably the main reason I no longer feel the need to rush to the seminary. Sometimes when friends mock me about my ambition, I tell them that yes, I am going to be a priest, get myself elected as pope and then allow priests to get married.

Of course, I am aware that there are those priests who openly engage in some dangerous liaisons with women. But I still believe that when you make a vow celibacy, then you shouldn't break it. To me, that is the biggest sin a priest can commit. Jesus Christ resisted all the temptations, how can his disciples do otherwise?

My doubts about pursuing priesthood grow even stronger when I see how much the priorities of the church has changed. I cannot imagine myself wearing a cassock and leading the faithful in an attempt to bring down a regime. I cannot imagine myself running around the country to criticize the government while many lost souls in the church need counsel and consolation to brighten up their lives. What some men of the cloth have done are heroic, I admit, but I also believe that the church should not meddle too much in the affairs of the state. What if the state does what the church has done to it, will the church not invoke the principle of separation of church and state?

My upbringing, the way I have behaved and my attitude toward the vocation make me worthy of becoming an heir to John Paul's throne, or so I think. But right now there is no compelling reason for me to hurry into a formation house.

Maybe it is God's will that I did not become a priest. Maybe He felt that I would contribute nothing to the hierarchy or that I could not be an effective messenger for spreading His words. But it is more likely that He believes that I would be better off in the outside world, carving my own niche in society. But I am becoming impatient with my progress, and the desire to enter the priesthood is getting stronger.

Frederick B. Dulay, 28, works as an information officer in a government agency in Region 1.

Notice to Youngblood contributor's

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THEY SAID

Message to MILF

"Our message to the MILF is this: We have decided to stop firing. It is now your turn to unload your weapons and keep them for a while."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the government's peace overtures

Weapon vs China

"Our strongest weapon against a big nation like China is noise."

—National Security Adviser Roilo Golez on how the government can deal with China's incursions into areas claimed by the Philippines

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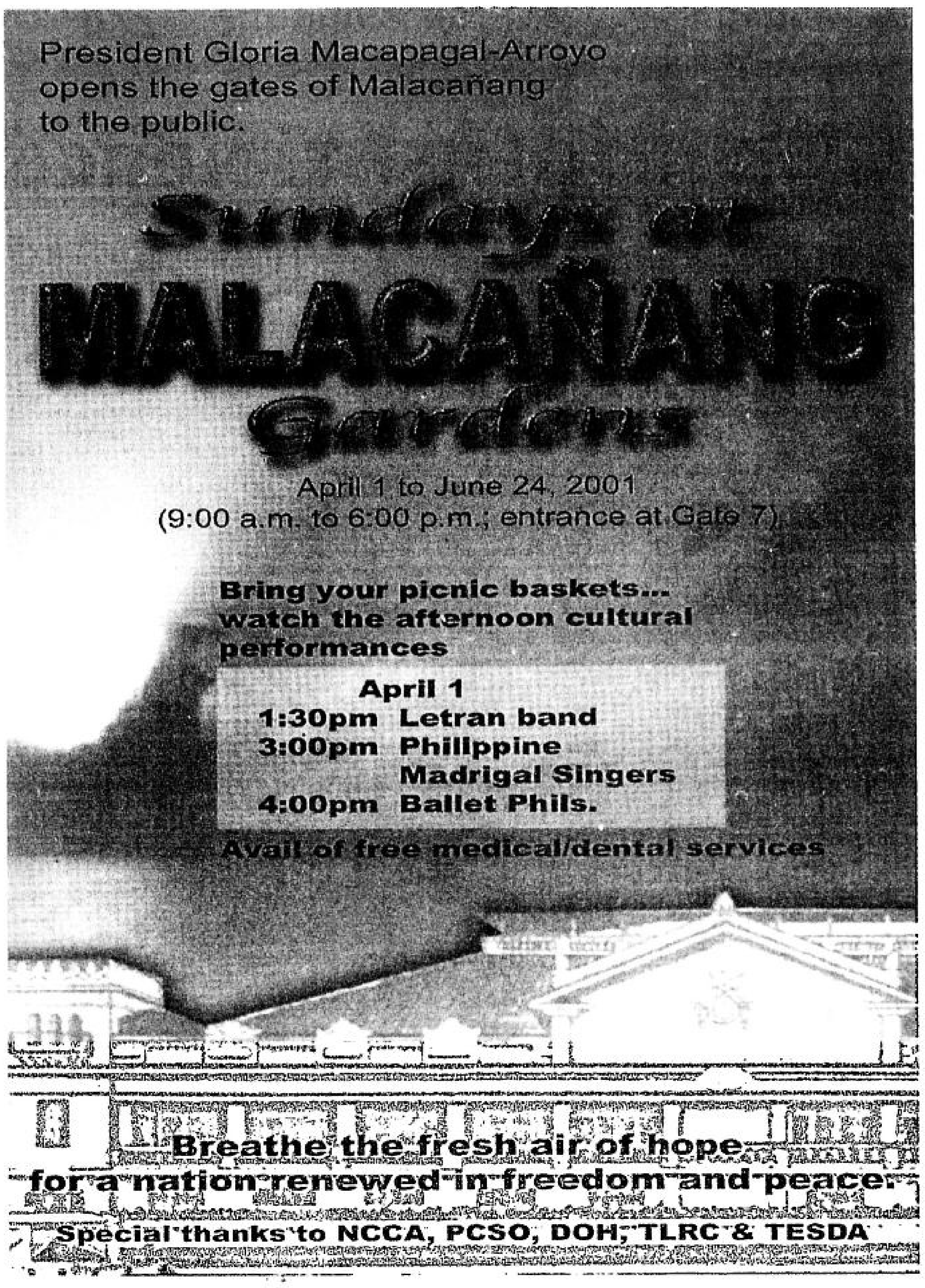
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo opens the gates of Malacañang to the public.

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LETTERS

Ethical option for a principled person

A FEW words of reflection on your twin subheadline stories last March 22: "Chief censor quits; Church meddling hit."

We, members of the Christians for National Liberation, applaud the courageous decision of Dr. Nicanor Tiongson to resign from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board. Rather than be another "instrument for the repression of the freedom of expression, a basic human right guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution," he took the ethical option that a principled person such as he must take. His action was a timely and powerful statement against the kind of people who are becoming fixtures of the Macapagal administration: yes-men and yes-women who cling to their posts at any cost, even if it means sacrificing their principles and compromising the welfare of the people. These leeches hide their bigoted fears and prejudices behind clichés and slogans that they, oftentimes in a fascistic and unchristian manner, misrepresent to be "Christian morality" or "the teachings of the Church."

Tiongson's demeaning and "traumatic" meeting with Jaime Cardinal Sin was an illustration of this. It brought back memories of a Rasputin unduly holding sway over matters of the state.

Today, integrity, competence and professionalism are what our national leaders badly need. We need men and women in government who understand and take to heart the meaning of being "public servants." We do not need men and women who kowtow to those who put them in power and who can keep them there.

After having ousted the corrupt Erap administration, we certainly do not need the kind of national leadership taking shape today under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which is more concerned with "looking good" to its supposed patrons (Cardinal Sin and the military) than with responding to the plight of the poor.

We do not condone indecency and any kind of pornography. We are for strengthening the moral fiber of our society. But in waging war against immorality and promoting a more ethical society, we are well advised against taking on the outlook of rampaging lunatics who have lost the ability to think, judge and act as mature and responsible individuals and who no longer know and care how to distinguish between pornography and art, between filth and realism, between cause and effect.

Finally, we dissociate ourselves from the kind of church that Cardinal Sin, Manuel Morato, Etta Mendez, Tita de Villa, Corazon Aquino and "Catholic women" represent and speak for. This church and these false crusaders of morality believe that they will be able to eradicate the evils portrayed by films like "Live Show" by pretending they don't exist. The church we are sworn to promote is the Church of the Poor, whose founder and leader Jesus, the Compassionate Redeemer, wants us to look closely and deeply into the social and personal causes that drive men, women and children to this kind of enslavement, and help get rid of those causes. If films and studies like "Live Show" can help us in this difficult task, we welcome such projects.—**ISAAC DE PACIS, spokesperson, Christians for National Liberation, 17 Cabinet Hill, Baguio City**

Partners in crime against Ilocanos

THIS is a reaction to the observation aired by Alexander Balauitan of Cagayan last Feb. 24. It was his contention that the people of Ilocos Sur should be proud of Gov. Luis Singson for coming out to expose the "venalities of the past administration." He said that by doing what he did, Singson provided the spark that led to the successful toppling of a corrupt president. And so we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Balauitan asked where the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) was when the governor was fighting the good fight. Why was Sisa not heard from when the struggle to bring down a corruption-ridden administration was raging?

We would like to disabuse the mind of Balauitan. Sisa is a new organization that was born amid the euphoria of the success of the so-called Edsa People Power II. It is composed of groups and individuals who feel that the spirit of militancy prevailing in the country should go down to the level of local governments. Although we must admit that the name Sisa was not heard during the protests against Erap, the organizations and individuals comprising Sisa were in the forefront of the protest actions against Erap's policies long before our governor came out to denounce his friend Erap.

The undersigned along with the progressive elements of our province joined the Church in heeding the call of Jaime Cardinal Sin and former President Cory Aquino on Sept. 21, 1999 to protest the plan of then President Estrada to amend the Constitution, the resurgence of cronyism and the curtailment of the freedom of the press. We were there before our governor.

We were also there again at the height of the protest movement, although we were carrying the names of our respective organizations.

So much for our "silence."

Now on his assertion that we should be proud of what Singson did. Balauitan should visit our province so he will find out the sad truth. He will find out who the real operator, protector and financier of *jueteng* is. He will find out also that *jueteng* has thrived in our province since time immemorial. He will find out that it's not true that *jueteng* became widespread only during the time of Estrada, it has been that way since 1987 when Cory Aquino was the president.

Granting that Singson told the truth when he said that he only acted as a delivery man for Estrada and he did not get a single centavo from the *jueteng* money he was collecting, should we be proud that our good governor allowed himself to be the bagman in the president's illegal activities?

Furthermore, why should we be proud when we know for a fact that at the time he came out to expose the corruption of the Estrada presidency, the Commission on Audit was questioning his own administration for numerous anomalous transactions involving proceeds from the Republic Act 7171 funds? It was a case of the pot calling the kettle black.

Should we be proud that our governor succeeded in covering up his own corruption? Should we be jumping with joy, when we know that with Estrada's ouster the injustice inflicted to our province would be forgotten? Lest Balauitan forget, part of the *jueteng* money Singson gave to Erap was the money of the people in Ilocos Sur. The P130 million he gave to Erap was supposed to be for the benefit of our province but he helped Erap defraud our people.

We are just being consistent. We were outraged by the corruption of Erap, which is why we are also outraged by the corruption happening in our province. We cannot accept the heroism of our governor and there should be no reason to be proud because the person we ousted from the presidency and the person being hailed as a hero were partners in crime, their victims were our fellow Ilocanos.

If Balauitan sincerely believes that ousting Erap Estrada was right because his regime was corrupt, why does he question our quest for justice for our province?—**NESTOR P. SEGISMUNDO, spokesperson, Save Ilocos Sur Alliance, Bantay, Ilocos Sur**

Couples for Christ and the 13-0 Movement

EVER since Couples for Christ spearheaded the 13-0 Movement all over the country, our community has received a lot of favorable commentary from the media for which we are very grateful. However, we want to make the following clarifications:

Couples for Christ's involvement in politics is not about partisanship but an expression of our community's moral and spiritual stand. We were among the first civil society groups to denounce and fight against the corrupt and morally bankrupt Erap administration. God has blessed the efforts of those who assembled at Edsa with victory, but the fight is far from over. The still formidable and well-financed Estrada forces are working very hard to decimate the gains earned in that victory, and it is part of our duty as Christians and Filipinos to continue the fight. Like what happened with Edsa I, Edsa II can be squandered away if the people who fought hard for it would now go back to their indifference, complacency and uncaring attitude.

Couples for Christ is supportive of the Macapagal administration. We want to give it the chance to succeed in its vision to rebuild the nation toward stability and progress. If there are flaws in it, we prefer to continue helping find ways to remedy them. This is not to say that we are going to be blind in our loyalty to the present administration.

Our support for the new administration and the 13 senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition (PPC) does not have strings attached. We are not here for power or position. We are here because it is God's will. We do have members who are in government, but they are there on their own merits and not because of any lobbying from our community. We also categorically state, for the record, that none of us in the CFC Council of Elders has political ambitions or personal agenda to pursue. But we are a group of Filipino families deeply concerned with how our country was so badly governed and how together we can make it better for all Filipino families by espousing a new politics and active and meaningful citizenship.

We recognize that there is a small percentage in our membership who will not agree with the stand we have taken, but we are confident that the vast majority trusts the discernment and decision of the Council of Elders which, for the past 20 years, has steered them well and hasn't disappointed them yet. If, because of this issue some CFC members choose to break away from us, that would be an unfortunate development but what we must do is too important and necessary in our prayerful discernment that we leave the matter entirely in God's hand and hope our friends know that this new direction is also God's will and it shall not be deterred.

The CFC is for 13-0 because we believe all the 13 PPC senatorial candidates are competent men and women and because we should not allow in the Senate the likes of Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio Honasan, Juan Ponce Enrile, Panfilo Lacson, Loi Ejercito and all those who were part of the reasons why we had to march for Edsa II.

As we write this, more than 54 non-government organizations and people's groups nationwide have joined us. The groundswell of support for the 13-0 Movement is an affirmation for us that the CFC's official stand, based on sound moral and spiritual principles, is both correct and righteous.—**TONY MELOTO, family ministries director, Couples for Christ, 349 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City**

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

US pressures Arafat on Mideast violence

WASHINGTON—The United States singled out Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Thursday for not doing enough to promote Middle East peace, and demanded Israel and the Palestinians take immediate steps to quell mounting violence as Palestinians prepared for a weekend of demonstrations.

"The tragic cycle of incitement, provocation and violence has gone on far too long," President George W. Bush said, calling on both sides to "take important steps to calm the situation now."

"The signal I'm sending to the Palestinians is stop the violence . . . I hope Chairman Arafat hears it loud and clear," he said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell later called Arafat to convey Bush's message, a spokesperson said.

Bush said he was deeply concerned about mounting tensions after Israel's Wednesday air strikes on Palestinian targets in retaliation for anti-Israel bombing attacks and said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon also had a part to play.

"The government of Israel for its part should exercise restraint in its military response, it should take steps to restore normalcy to the lives of the Palestinian people by easing closures and removing checkpoints," Bush said.

The president won support for his position from German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who visited the White House Thursday.

"We both believe that nothing is more important than to make sure that the parties to the process, which means particularly the Palestinians and Israel, build up the necessary trust," Schroeder said. "This might sound utopian given recent developments," but he did not see an alternative.

Meanwhile, Palestinian movements called for a strike Friday and a demonstration Saturday in east Jerusalem for "Land Day," which is commemorated each year on March 30. The organizations called on Palestinians to try to breach Israeli roadblocks separating the city from the West Bank.

Land Day marks the death of six Israeli Arabs killed in 1976 by the Army and has traditionally been marked by demonstrations.

Bush—who has taken a more hands-off approach to Middle East peace than did his predecessor, Bill Clinton—defended his strategy and indicated he was making a diplomatic push to bring the parties back to the negotiating table.

He said that in meetings with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak next week and Jordan's King Abdullah II the week after he would "seek their help in defusing the tensions."

He said he hoped the two Arab leaders would try to convince Arafat to speak out to his people against violence and strongly suggested Arafat would not be invited to the White House until he acts.

Bush noted that he and other officials had urged Sharon, who visited Bush at the White House last week, to ease economic pressure on the Palestinians.

"Our goal is to encourage a series of reciprocal and parallel steps by both sides that will halt the escalation of violence, provide safety and security for civilians on both sides, and restore normalcy to the lives of everyone in the region," Bush said.

But he reiterated that "this nation will not try to force a peace settlement" and defended his administration's veto of a UN resolution to send an observer force to the Palestinian territories.

"We will continue to try to convince the parties to become willing to sit down and negotiate a lasting peace, but this country cannot impose a timetable nor a settlement on the parties if they are unwilling to accept it," he said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Dalai Lama's trip

TAIPEI—For the past five decades, Tibet and Taiwan have created some of the biggest headaches for China's leaders, whose sacred goal is to do what all great Chinese dynasties have done: unify the motherland. On Saturday, the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, travels to Taiwan—a trip that could heighten tensions with Beijing. This will be the Dalai Lama's second visit to the island-nation, but he is expected to meet new Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian for the first time. Both men are deeply distrusted by Beijing, which has accused them of being "splittists." *AP*

Japanese cartoon book

TAIPEI—When Chinese or South Koreans are asked what they think of Japan's treatment of their countries during World War II, they are likely to respond with angry accounts of Japanese soldiers raping women, bayoneting babies and killing thousands with germ warfare. Many Taiwanese give very different answers to that question. The island is possibly the only place where it's easy to find people who think Japan's half-decade of colonial rule was better than that of their own race. Not everyone agrees, however, and a new cartoon book on Taiwan's history by a right-wing Japanese has exposed deep divisions bubbling beneath the surface of society. Cartoonist Yoshinori Kobayashi's "Taiwan Discourse" has quickly become the island's hottest topic. *AP*

Missile defense shield

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush stuck firmly by his call for a missile defense shield and his opposition to a global-warming pact, declaring in a meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder: "We can disagree and yet still be friends." Schroeder also remained steadfast Thursday. "Nobody should be relieved from his responsibility for climate control," he told reporters at a news conference after the White House meeting. Schroeder carried a list of concerns to their first face-to-face meeting. He conveyed Europe's dismay over the White House's rejection of the Kyoto global-warming agreement and raised a series of questions about the missile defense system. *AP*

Inter-Korean talks

SEOUL—South Korean officials were doubtful yesterday about whether North Korea would respond soon to their proposal to hold Red Cross talks in Seoul next week. The South Korean Red Cross had suggested to its Northern counterpart that the talks, originally scheduled for April 3-5, be held in the South Korean capital. Earlier talks were held at Diamond Mountain, a scenic resort on the North's eastern coast. However, there was no word from the North Koreans, who have canceled two other engagements with the South this month in what observers believe is a protest campaign against the United States. "We still have some time, but the outlook is not so bright," said Kim Hyong-sup, a spokesperson for Seoul's Red Cross. *AP*

Killer of abortion doctor

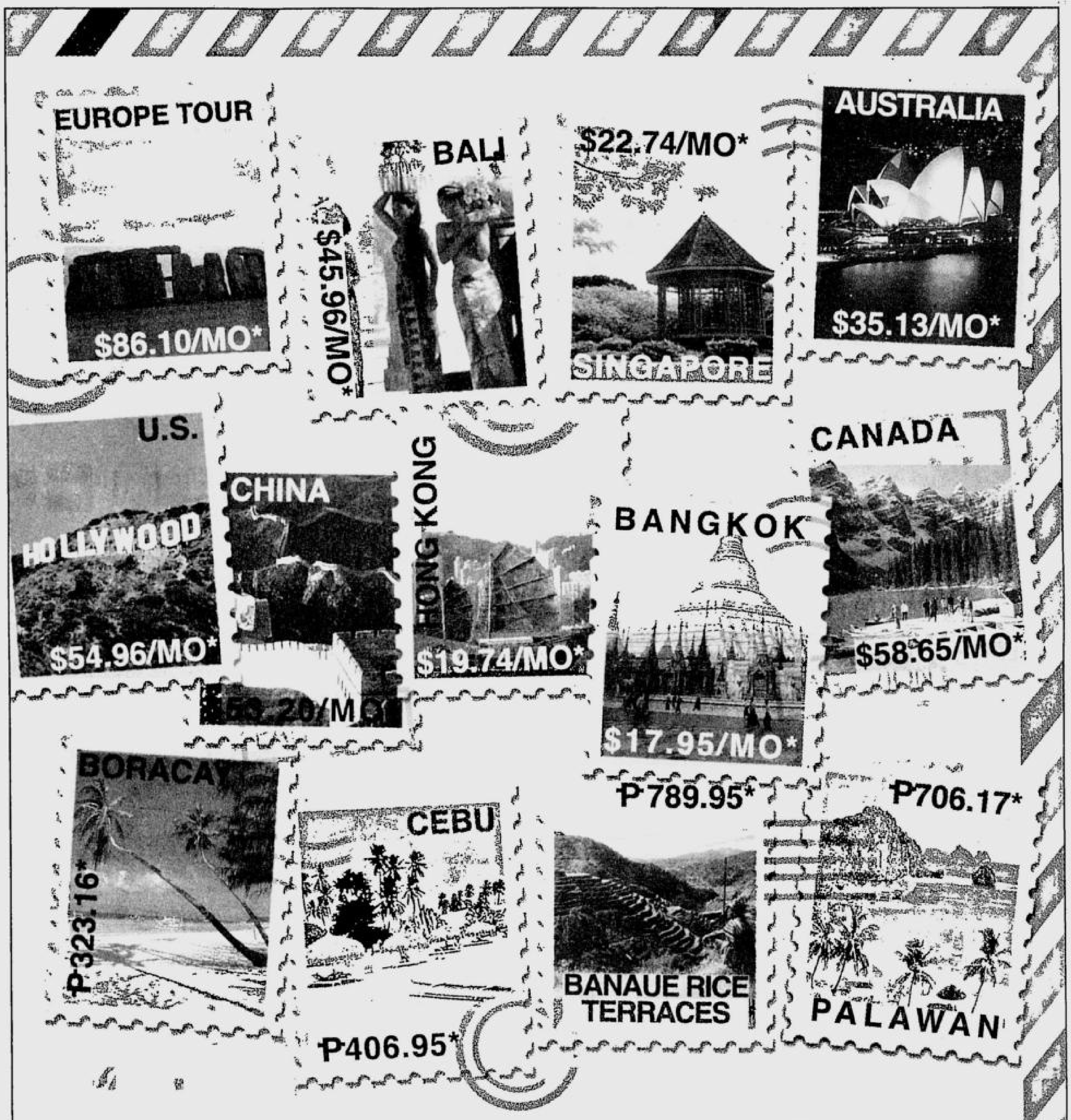
BUFFALO, New York—The man wanted in the 1998 slaying of a Buffalo abortion doctor who was cut down by a sniper's bullet in his kitchen was captured in France on Thursday. James Kopp, a 46-year-old known as the "Atomic Dog" in anti-abortion circles, became one of the FBI's most wanted fugitives after the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian. Kopp is also wanted by Canadian authorities for allegedly wounding an abortion doctor there in 1995. FBI agent Joel Mercer said Kopp was arrested outside a post office in the northwestern French community of Dinan, where he had gone to pick up a package from New York containing $300. He had arrived from Ireland less than three weeks earlier. *AP*

Venezuela labor unrest

CARACAS—Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, scrambling to try to rein in labor unrest, sent the National Guard onto the streets Thursday to prevent clashes as strikes gripped the key oil industry and shut down the country's schools. "The head of state ordered the National Guard to take up a dissuasive position. It is going to be on the streets to confront delinquents, drug traffickers and any protest," defense minister Jose Vicente Rangel told reporters. The 60,000 oilworkers and 200,000 teachers walked off their jobs Wednesday; the former had expected to strike for two days and the latter for three. Leaders of the oil workers' union promised to end their strike late Thursday, after first threatening to continue until their demands were met. Venezuela is the leading supplier of oil to the United States, the world's largest oil consumer. It is also the only current Latin American member of Opec, and produces 2.9 million barrels of crude daily. *AFP*

AIDS in Asia, Africa

UNITED NATIONS—Poverty and a lack of rights make women more vulnerable to AIDS in Africa and Asia, where the epidemic is most rampant, a United Nations campaigner said Thursday. "The epidemic is fuelled by gender inequality," said Stephanie Urdang of the UN Development Fund for Women in a telephone interview. The government in South Africa released figures last week indicating that 24.5 percent of pregnant women are infected with HIV, the virus, which causes AIDS. Health authorities used the figures, based on a survey of more than 400 antenatal clinics, to conclude that one in nine of South Africa's 4.7 million people is HIV-positive. Most will die of AIDS. *AFP*



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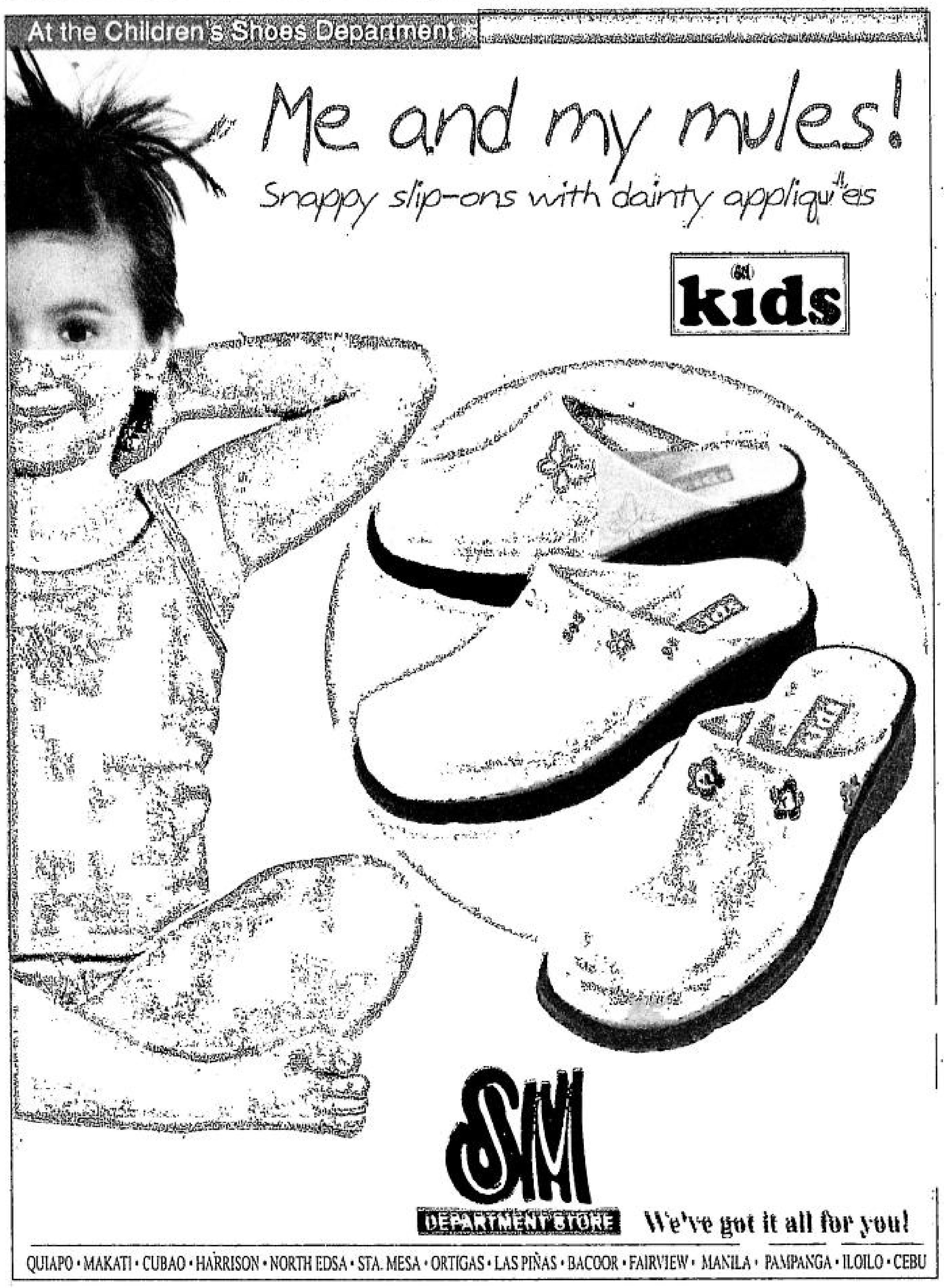
Indon forces accused of murder

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—Human Rights Watch yesterday accused the Indonesian security forces of murdering three members of an official team monitoring the truce between separatist rebels and government forces in Aceh province.

The New York-based organization said the men, all Acehnese, were shot to death about 30 minutes after they were questioned at a police station in southern Aceh on Thursday. The team had been hauled in after they had accused members of the security forces of raping five local women.

Police spokesperson Inspector Harunantyo confirmed the deaths, but denied that the security forces were responsible. *AP*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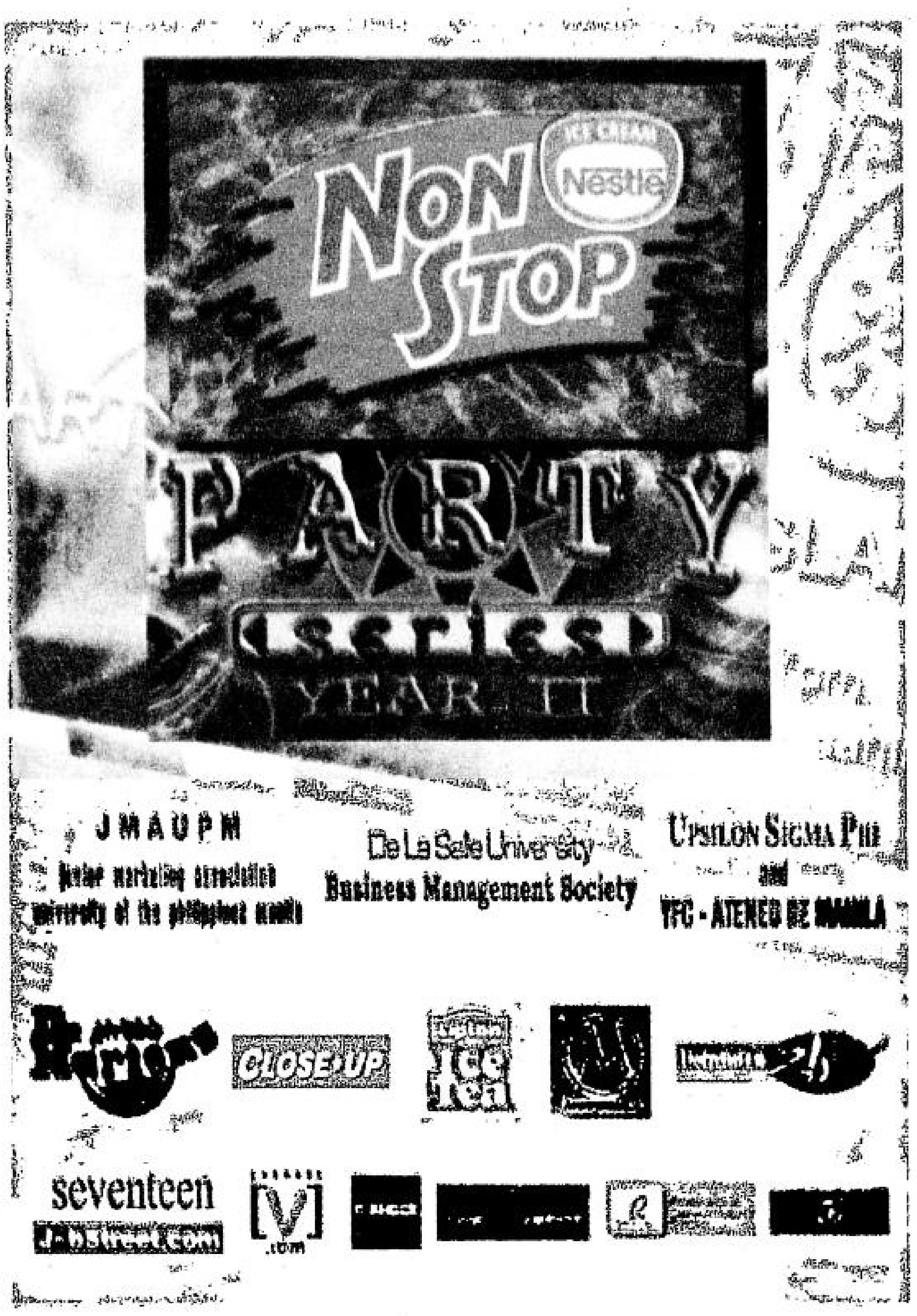
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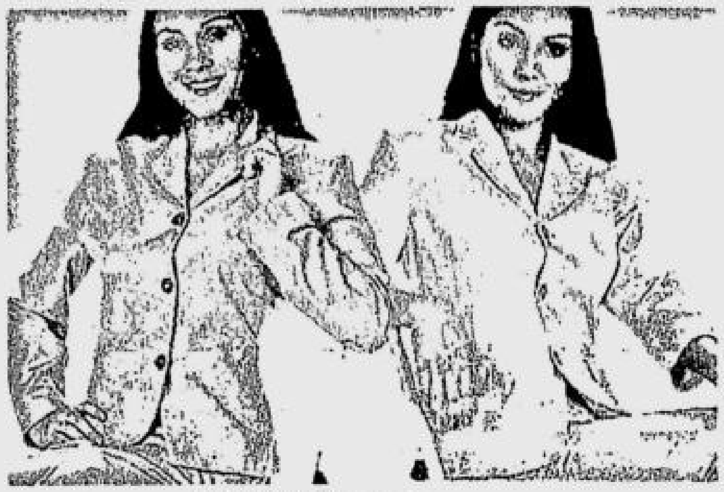

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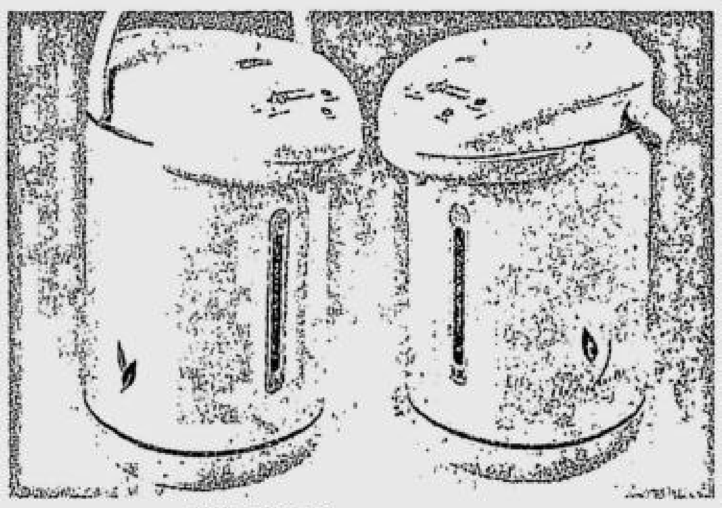

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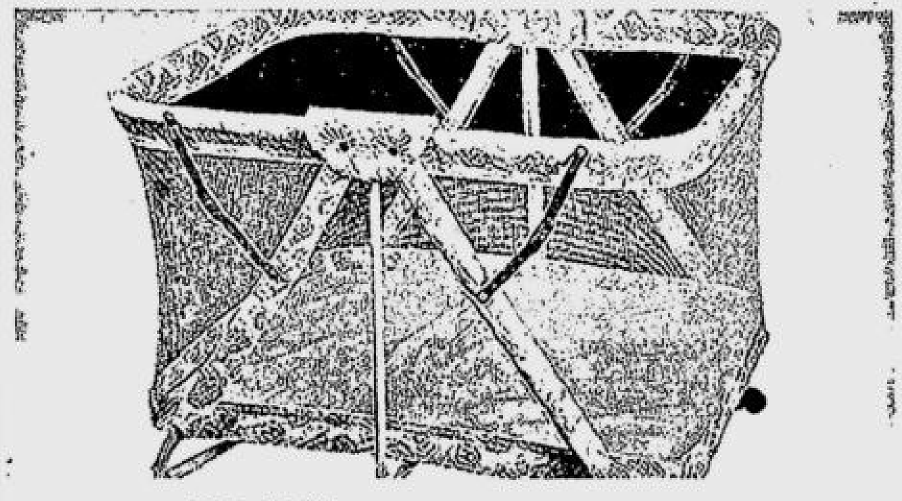

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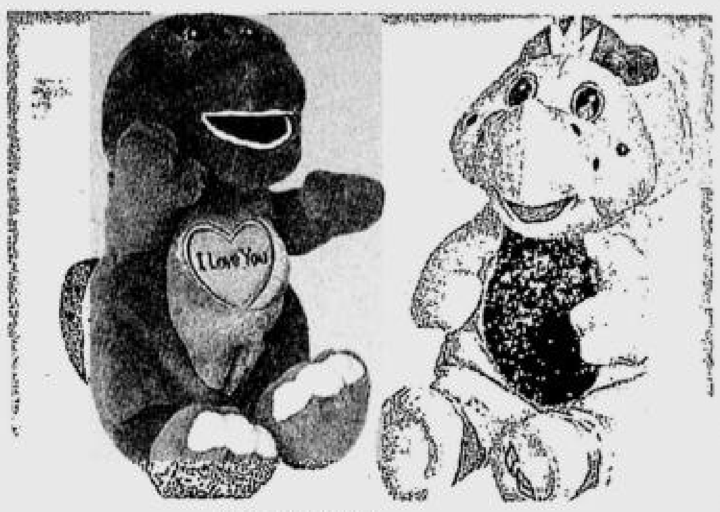

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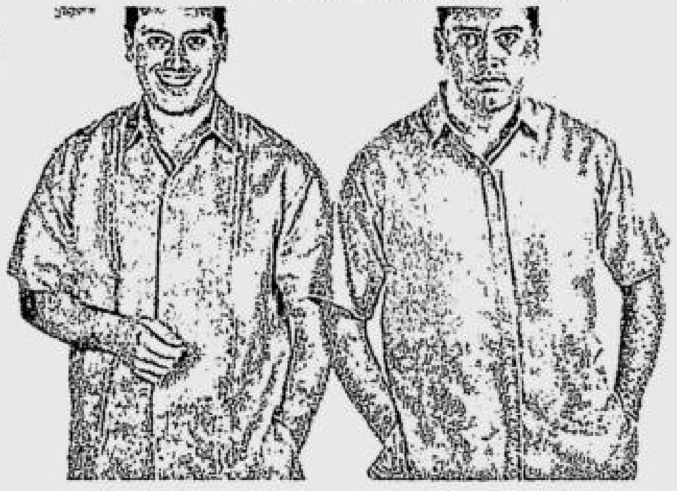

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Britain agonizes over FMD vaccination

LONDON—British authorities yesterday agonized over whether to start the limited vaccination of animals to contain the devastating spread of foot-and-mouth disease, but appeared poised to press ahead.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, himself agonizing over whether to go ahead with May 3 general elections, was said to favor the idea, despite the opposition of some farmers.

Agriculture Minister Nick Brown yesterday traveled to Cumbria, northwest England, the region worst hit by the livestock virus, to press the case.

The government is desperate to get farmers' approval, however grudgingly, to avoid embarrassing confrontations with official vets.

To resort to vaccination, which has not been used on a large scale in the European Union for at least a decade and was until recently dismissed here as unthinkable, would be a momentous decision.

It is being mooted because the policy of mass slaughter has shown no sign of bringing the epidemic under control.

Early yesterday, the number of confirmed outbreaks stood at 780, the ministry of agriculture said.

If vaccination slows the spread of the epidemic, it might salvage Blair's hopes of May 3 elections, a plan that could be scuppered if foot-and-mouth is not brought under control soon.

The vaccination option was debated "at length" by Blair at a meeting with ministers Thursday and later with National Farmers' Union (NFU) president Ben Gill, a Downing Street spokesperson said.

The spokesperson did not disclose if any decision had been taken, but added: "Ben Gill said the government was going to have to make a decision within 48 hours. We acknowledge we are going to have to do that."

Gill said the mass slaughter was beginning to work in some areas, but that in Cumbria it may need to be complemented by vaccination.

He reflected farmers' worries. "Vaccination is not the solution in itself. It is not a miracle cure for this disease."

Scottish NFU chief Jim Walker said it would be "an admission of defeat."

He said it was clear from the talks with Blair that vaccination "was very much in the prime minister's thoughts. I told him that, as far as Scotland is concerned, it is not the best option."

Farmers fear the scheme will ruin the industry for months as vaccination leaves foot-and-mouth antibodies in the bloodstream, wrecking any prospect of selling meat and milk which would have to be specially marked.

Britain has EU permission to vaccinate some 180,000 cattle in Cumbria and in Devon, in southwest England, another area that has been badly hit.

In the meantime, the mass slaughter is continuing.

The government aims to beat the disease by reducing the time taken between the diagnosis and slaughter of affected animals to within 24 hours.

In the early stage of the outbreak, now nearly six weeks old, the virus is believed to have spread rapidly because animals were not being killed quickly enough.

Agriculture ministry data show that 764,000 animals—mainly sheep, pigs and cattle—have been earmarked for slaughter.

Of those, only about 482,000 have been killed, leaving 282,000 still to be slaughtered, and there is a huge backlog in disposal, with more than 135,000 carcasses remaining to be dealt with.

The epidemic is heightening Blair's election dilemma.

He is expected to make up his mind this weekend, as a May 3 election would mean parliament has to be dissolved by next Friday for technical reasons. *AFP*

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR AMBASSADOR BIENVENIDO A. TAN, JR.

We, the Xavier School Community, express our unwavering support for and affirm our faith in the character, honesty and integrity of our chairman, Ambassador Bienvenido A. Tan, Jr.

Amb. Tan has selflessly served the Xavier School Community in various capacities over the past thirty years. He is and remains one of the driving forces that make Xavier School the excellent educational institution that it is today.

He is an embodiment of Xavier's Cardinal values of being a light and a man for others, a man imbued with a passion for justice and fairness. Certainly, he is not a man who will ever willfully injure the government, nor in any way betray the high office he had been entrusted with.

We believe a grave injustice has been committed by the decision of the Sandiganbayan to convict an honorable man who has done so much for his country.

We, who respect Amb. Tan, can only pray that justice will ultimately prevail and his name will be cleared and vindicated.

We stand by him, resolutely.

Fr. Romeo Intengan, S.J.
Jesuit Provincial

Fr. Eugene Moran, S.J.
School Director, 1991-2001

Fr. Johnny Go, S.J.
Incoming School Director

Fr. Alberto Ampil, S.J.
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Mr. Marco Co
President
Xavier High School
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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR AMBASSADOR BIENVENIDO A. TAN, JR.

We, the Members and Board of Trustees of XAVIER SCHOOL affirm – in the strongest possible way – our unwavering support for Ambassador Bienvenido A.Tan, Jr.

We are shocked and dismayed by the Sandiganbayan's decision regarding his involvement in the 1988 tax case of San Miguel Corporation.

Our longstanding knowledge of Amb. Tan and our experience of his unquestionable personal uprightness run counter to the implication that he has willfully injured the government.

Beyond any doubt has Amb. Tan proven his love for country and his dedication to the common good. For so many years, he has served in such organizations as the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation. His own Elena P. Tan Foundation has sponsored numerous projects and scholarships to help alleviate the problems of our country.

Given Amb. Tan's unquestionable patriotism and moral stature, as well as his long and distinguished record of public service, we cannot – and refuse to – give any credence to the initial outcome of the San Miguel case.

To the growing number of voices supporting Amb. Tan, we, the Xavier School community, join ours. In these difficult times when his integrity is being questioned, we affirm our unequivocal support for Amb. Tan, a man whose patriotism and moral stature are truly beyond question and make him a source of inspiration and a shining example to us.

We urgently appeal for an immediate and fair reconsideration of the case. We are confident that justice will be truly served – but, we pray, swiftly, so that Amb. Tan may be vindicated at the soonest possible time.

Thank you very much!

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Rev. Asterio Katigbak, S.J.
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Member

Rev. Oscar Millar, S.J.
Member

Rev. Nemesio Que, S.J.
Trustee

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Benjamin Sim, S.J.
Rev. Benjamin Sim, S.J.
Trustee

Mr. Miguel Tan
Trustee

Rodolfo P. Valdez, SJ
Rev. Rodolfo Valdez, S.J.
Member

Mr. Gregorio Yu
Trustee

Rev. Ismael Zuloaga, S.J.
Trustee

FIREFIGHTERS search for bodies near the wing of a Gulfstream III twin-engine jet that crashed into a hillside as it approached an airport in Aspen, Colorado, on March 29. AP

18 killed as chartered jet slams into hillside in Aspen

ASPEN, Colorado—A chartered jet slammed into a hillside as it approached an airport in this ski resort town, killing all 18 people on board, authorities said.

The plane fell apart as it dived across a culvert and struck another bluff just short of the runway on Thursday night. Wreckage and bodies were strewn across the crash site. Two dead passengers were still strapped to their seats, and one was sprawled on a hillside.

The Gulfstream III twin-engine jet was en route to Aspen from Los Angeles. Fifteen passengers and three crew members were on board, said Allen Kenitzer, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesperson in Seattle. It was not clear what airport the plane had departed from.

There were no distress calls before the crash, said Marie Munday, a spokesperson for the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office. All 18 bodies were recovered, she said. The victims were not immediately identified.

The National Weather Service reported light snow and mist in the Aspen area Thursday night.

An eyewitness saw the airplane go down at the Sardy Field airport shortly after 7 p.m. Madeleine Osberger was driving near the airport when she saw the plane making its final approach.

"I turned the corner and saw flames," said Osberger.

Debris at the scene showed the plane lost its tail when it hit a hillside about six meters high as it plunged across a 60-meter culvert between the hill and the airport, then slammed into another bluff about 455 meters short of the runway.

The airport, nestled in the Rocky Mountains, has one runway at an elevation of 2,344.5 meters.

The plane was registered to Airborne Charter Inc. at Burbank, California, said Bruce Nelson, an FAA operations officer in Los Angeles.

In Washington, a spokesperson for the National Transportation Safety Board, Ted Lopatkiewicz, said Thursday night the agency would investigate. *AP*

Ruling on sex slaves overturned

TOKYO—An appeals court Thursday overturned an earlier ruling that had ordered the Japanese government to compensate women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The Hiroshima High Court said the government need not pay three Korean women a total of $7,260, as required by the 1998 district court ruling, saying no serious constitutional violations had occurred.

The three women were among 10 plaintiffs who filed a lawsuit with the Yamaguchi District Court in western Japan in 1992, seeking about $3.1 million in official compensation. They also demanded the government's official apology.

One of the plaintiffs has since died.

The 1998 ruling was the first and only in Japan that required the Japanese government to recompense South Korean women for being forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army, Kyodo News Agency said.

The plaintiffs appealed the earlier ruling, saying the amount of money was too small. The government also appealed, refusing to pay.

In the original 1998 ruling, the Shimonoseki Branch of the Yamaguchi District Court said the Japanese government had failed to enact laws facilitating compensation to former sex slaves.

The women and their supporters had hailed the ruling as a landmark decision.

On Thursday, however, presiding judge Toshiaki Kawanami said abducting the women to use them as forced laborers and sex slaves was not a serious constitutional violation.

Tokyo has acknowledged that its wartime Army set up brothels and forced thousands of Koreans into military service, but it has refused to redress individuals officially or directly.

Historians say as many as 200,000 women, mostly Koreans but also Filipinos, Chinese and Dutch, were forced into sexual slavery during World War II. *AP*

DIPOLOG KIDNAPPING

Gunmen seize woman lawyer, child

BY ROMY AMARADO
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police authorities in Negros Oriental are on red alert following the kidnapping of a woman and her 4-year-old daughter in Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte on Thursday.

Chief Insp. Rey Lyndon Lawas, acting police chief of Dumaguete, said he ordered his men to patrol the coastal areas because the kidnappers might have brought their victims to Negros Oriental.

He said he asked the police provincial office to alert its police stations and keep a tight watch in other coastal areas.

The family of the kidnap victim, Ma. Adelaida Dolores Liong, 34, asked for help from the Dumaguete police in the pursuit operations. It was Liong and her daughter Alexandra could have been brought to Negros Oriental.

The victims' family appealed to people living in the coastal areas of the province to report to authorities the presence of suspicious-looking individuals in their communities.

The kidnappers and their victims were last seen riding in a pumpboat toward Negros Oriental. Dipolog is two hours by boat to Dumaguete.

Eight unidentified armed men kidnapped Liong, a lawyer, and her daughter about 5 p.m. Thursday on Malvar Street in Dipolog.

The victim belongs to an affluent family in Dipolog. Liong's husband, identified only as Boy, is an engineer-contractor. Her father, Jesus Montano, is a board member of Zamboanga del Norte.

Allan Ranillo of Ranillo and Ranillo Associates, of which the victim is an associate, told radio station dyWC that Liong was supposed to bring Alexandra for a medical check-up that day.

Her vehicle was flagged down by the kidnappers, who were reportedly in their early 20s and armed with high-powered firearms, Ranillo said.

The gunmen forced Liong and her daughter to board a waiting Isuzu Trooper van and brought them to the coastal village of Miputak in Dipolog.

They boarded a twin-engine pumpboat, whose outrigger is painted green with yellow and red stripes. The boat sailed toward Negros Oriental.

As of yesterday morning, the Liongs had yet to receive word from the kidnappers.

Ranillo said the kidnappers were not professionals based on the account of some witnesses.

He said the witnesses noted that some of the abductors appeared to be shaking while carrying out the crime.

Some of the gunmen's personal belongings, including a cellular phone, were left behind on Malvar Street.

Indians victims of kidnap gangs in Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A rash of kidnapping incidents has victimized Indians in Central Luzon since February, police reports here said.

Indian businessmen led by Willy Gill asked the Angeles City police on Sunday to invite for questioning Tirath Sigh and Harnail Singh, both Indians who are residing in the city.

Gill's group suspected that the two belonged to a kidnap gang whose five members were arrested by agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force agents on March 23 in Tarlac.

The two denied involvement in the kidnapping activities.

Officials of an immigration district office in Olongapo City confiscated the passports of Sigh and Singh to prevent them from leaving the country, the regional police based in this camp said.

Following the efforts of Gill's group to prevent the rash of kidnappings, Angeles police disclosed that two victims of "unreported kidnapping" surfaced recently. They were identified as Balwant Singh and Sukwinder Singh Bundral.

Balwant Singh said five men abducted him on Feb. 8 in Mexico, Pampanga. He told police that he was released on Feb. 12 after he paid P1.5 million in ransom.

Bundral was abducted on Feb. 27 along the Magalang-Capas road, also in Pampanga. His captors freed him on March 2 after he paid them P1.8 million.

The PAOCTF, according to the Angeles police, asked Singh, Bundral and other still unnamed victims to go to the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame and request a formal investigation.

The Indian community here also alerted the INQUIRER about the kidnapping of Surat Singh Chowla early this month. His abductors demanded P3 million, a source said.

Out of fear, Chowla and his family had returned to India, the source added.

In Nueva Ecija, reports from the regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Group showed that a kidnap gang has been holding a 30-year-old Indian businesswoman in San Jose City since Feb. 11.

The victim's husband was reportedly instructed by the kidnappers to prepare P300,000 in ransom money. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas will exeperience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 33° Lo 24°	**Baguio** HI 24° Lo 15°	**Tuguegarao** HI 27° Lo 22°	**Laoag** HI 29° Lo 23°
Clark Zone HI 32° Lo 23°	**Tagaytay** HI 32° Lo 22°	**Legazpi** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Calapan** HI 34° Lo 23°
Bacolod HI 32° Lo 25°	**Roxas** HI 32° Lo 26°	**Cebu** HI 33° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos HI 31° Lo 25°	**Zamboanga** HI 31° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 33° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

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18-15 Escario St.,
Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346 / 233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail:
pdivis@skyinet.net

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site),
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 480-6099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail:
inq_bicol@inquirer.com .ph

Mindanao Bureau
479-c General Luna St.,
Davao City
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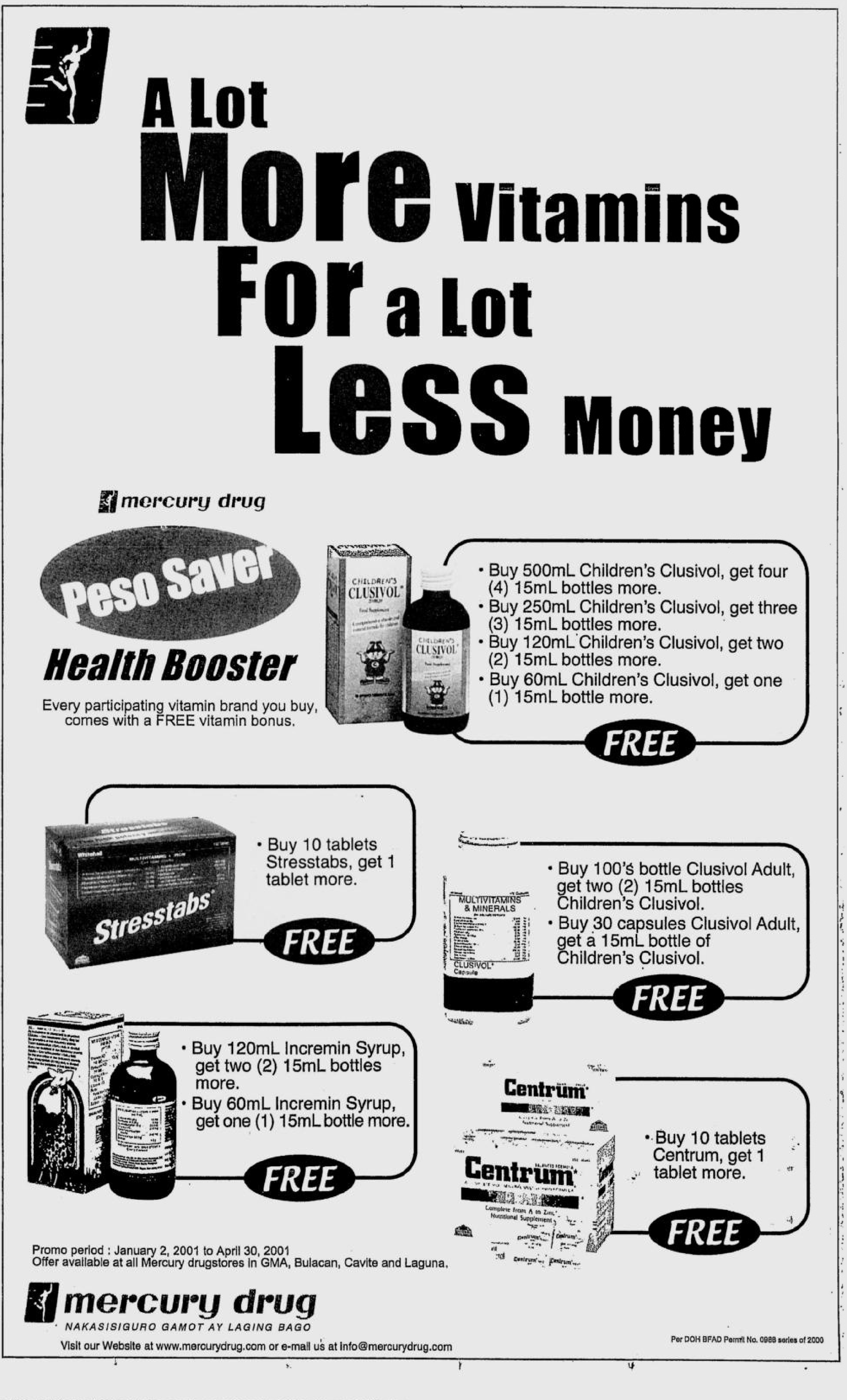

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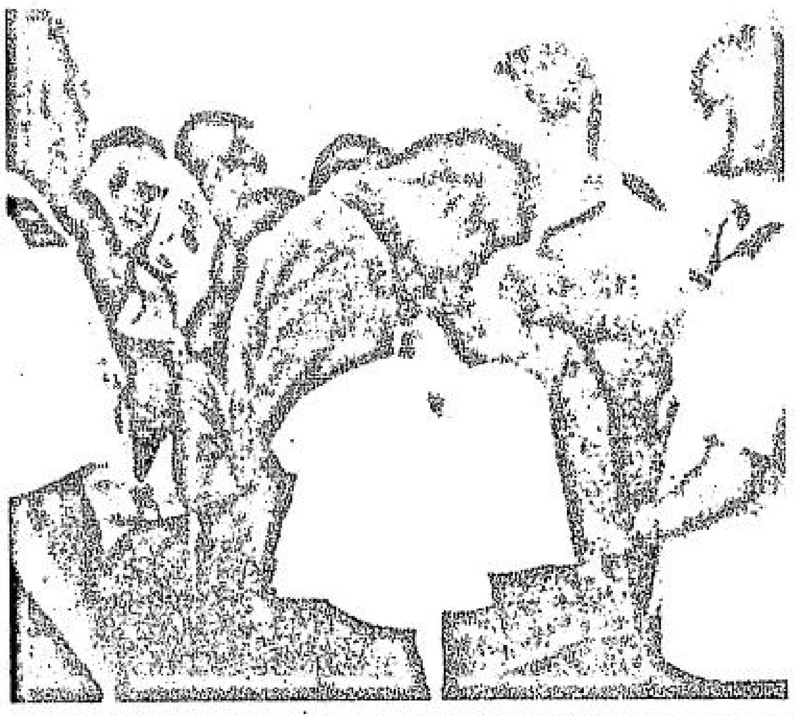


FIRST Lt. Ditto Nestor Dinopol, boyfriend of 1st Lt. Mary Grace Baloyo, weeps on the shoulder of the hero's mother as the remains of the woman pilot arrive at the Bacolod City airport. CARLA GOMEZ

Bacolod honors 'Amazing Grace'

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—It was a sunny Thursday morning but the atmosphere at the tarmac of the Bacolod airport was gloomy.

Moans of unfathomed grief rang out as the white casket bearing the remains of 1st Lt. Mary Grace Baloyo was carried out from the C-130 plane by her fellow members of the 15th Strike Wing.

Annie Baloyo, Mary Grace's mother, clutched the hand of her other daughter, Mary Joy, as they tried to hold back their tears.

First Lt. Ditto Nestor Dinopol, Mary Grace's boyfriend, wept and embraced Annie. He later took Mary Grace's military uniform and held it tightly.

The remains were brought to the house of Mary Grace's maternal grandmother on San Sebastian Street. Burial will be at the Bacolod Memorial Park although the family had yet to set a date for it.

Dinopol and Mary Grace had planned to get married in December 2002. Mary Grace had wanted four children--two boys and two girls.

The two met in 1997 in Lipa City in Batangas while training to become pilots of the Philippine Air Force. They were to celebrate their fourth anniversary on March 28.

But on March 26, Mary Grace chose to sacrifice her life and her dreams when she refused to eject from a plunging plane to steer it away from populated areas northwest of Clark Field in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

She was killed instantly when the OV-10 reconnaissance and bomber aircraft crashed and burst into flames in a vacant lot, about 10 meters from the houses of more than 200 families.

"I think she is happy now because she was able to save the lives of others. She was a very strong person," said Dinopol, who is a helicopter pilot of the 15th Strike Wing.

He said Mary Grace was the "best pilot" and was even called "Amazing Grace" when the PAF awarded her a golden medallion.

Mary Grace was one of only six women combat pilots in the PAF.

At the height of the government's war against Moro rebels in Mindanao last year, Mary Grace was one of the PAF pilots who led the attack on Camp Abubakar, the main camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, in Maguindanao.

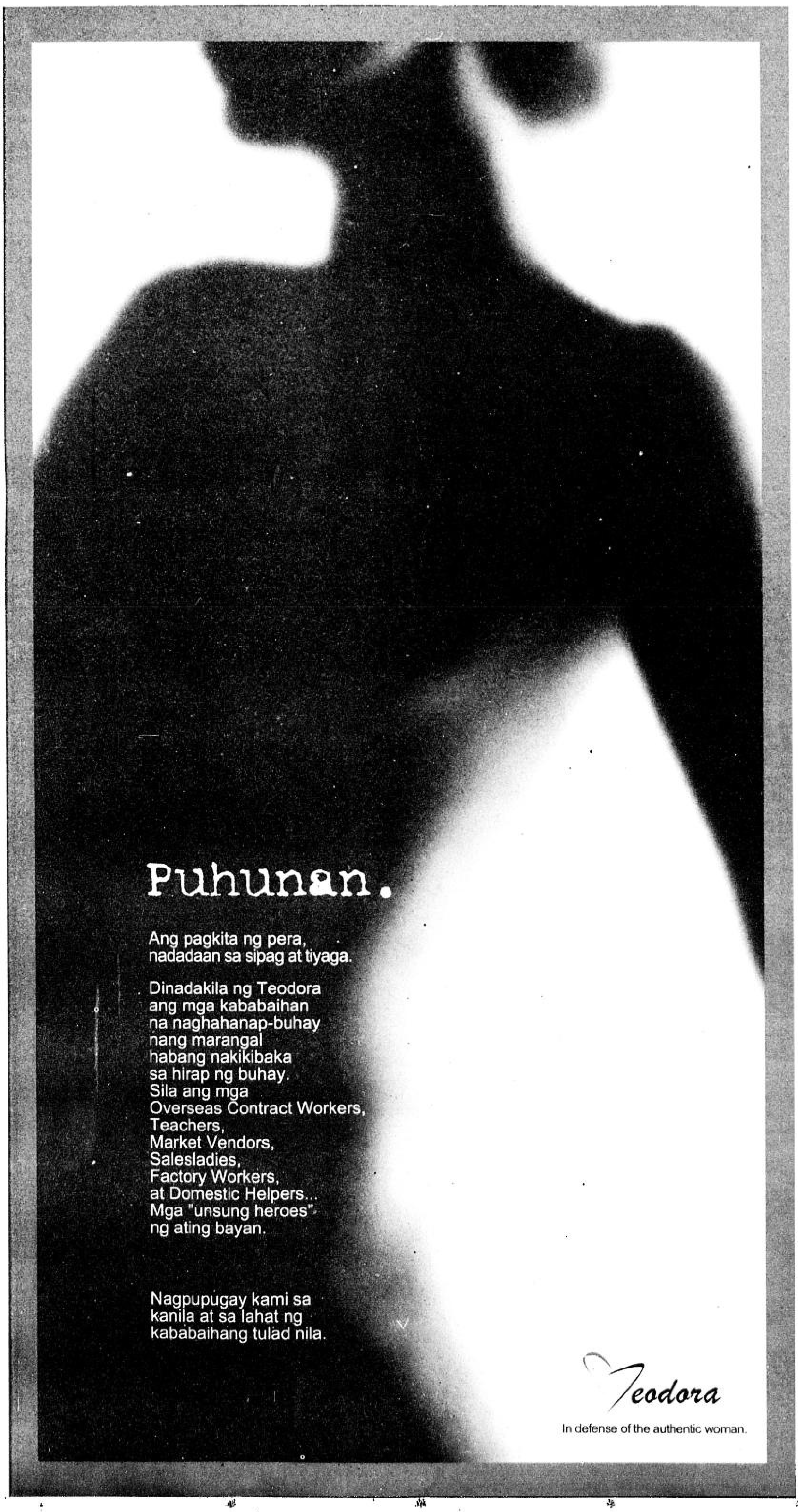
For that, she was awarded an Aviation Cross. She had received eight Gold Cross medals, two Distinguished Aviation Cross medals and three military merit medals.

Col. Amador Alojado, deputy commander of the 15th Strike Wing, described Mary Grace an outstanding officer and an extraordinary pilot.

He said the PAF had given Mary Grace a posthumous military merit medal that will be upgraded to a distinguished service star.

The Bacolod City government and the St. Scholastica's Academy (SSA), where Mary Grace graduated from high school, were set to honor her before the burial.

"We are proud of what she did . . . we are proud that as a Bacolodnon she made a difference, which will serve as an example to other pilots," said Bacolod Mayor Luzviminda Valdez.



Puhunan.

Ang pagkita ng pera,
nadadaan sa sipag at tiyaga.

Dinadakila ng Teodora
ang mga kababaihan
na naghahanap-buhay
nang marangal
habang nakikibaka
sa hirap ng buhay.
Sila ang mga
Overseas Contract Workers,
Teachers,
Market Vendors,
Salesladies,
Factory Workers,
at Domestic Helpers...
Mga "unsung heroes"
ng ating bayan.

Nagpupugay kami sa
kanila at sa lahat ng
kababaihang tulad nila.

Teodora
In defense of the authentic woman.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

LDP dangles lower power cost in Bicol

LEGAZPI CITY—The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) has vowed to initiate in the next Congress a bipartisan move for an overhaul of energy laws, aiming to lower the high electricity rates in power-producing regions like Bicol.

Senatorial candidate Ricardo "Dong" Puno Jr. said here Wednesday that a new legislation providing subsidies or credits to power distributors and end-users in energy-producing areas is needed.

This, he said, would correct the anomaly of prohibitive electricity rates in Albay and other provinces that house the power-generating facilities of National Power Corp. (Napocor).

Puno disclosed the LDP commitment amid reports that Napocor had threatened to cut off power supply to the Albay Electric Cooperative (Aleco) for non-settlement of its long-due obligations to the state-run power firm.

Aleco has been encountering financial difficulties, largely because of its poor collections from end-users who are reeling from the high cost of electricity in a province which hosts two Napocor facilities—the Tiwi and Bacon-Manito geothermal plants.

The Bacon-Manito facility lies at the Albay-Sorsogon boundary.

Puno, former press secretary and presidential spokesperson, said "Laban will review all laws covering the power sector with an eye to pushing new legislation granting subsidies or credits to power distributors in order to provide relief to Bicolanos and other ordinary consumers in energy-providing areas."

A resident of Manito, Albay said the issue had been "overused by politicians, including deposed President Joseph Estrada, but nothing has happened."

Roger Lorilla, a town resident, asked: "How can a senator fulfill the promised lower power rate when even the President then failed to fulfill his promise?"

The Bacon-Manito plant is the second geothermal plant to rise in Bicol after the Tiwi geothermal fields became fully operational.

Senatorial candidate Juan Ponce Enrile cited the power purchase adjustment as the main problem, saying it gave rise to "corruption" in the power industry. ***Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

43 hot spots listed in Southern Tagalog

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police have tagged 43 areas in Southern Tagalog as election hot spots due to intense rivalry between politicians and increased presence of communist rebels.

Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes Jr., Southern Tagalog police director, said two election-related violent incidents occurred recently in the region.

These were the killings of two barangay captains in Quezon and Cavite.

Reyes said three provinces were being closely monitored, while six partisan armed groups had been identified and placed under surveillance.

"The 16 barangays in Quezon are under close watch because of the existence of dissidents issuing campaign permits for fees," Reyes said.

Police records showed 6,141 people had filed certificates of candidacy for Congress representative, governor, mayor and councilor.

Seventy-nine of them are running for seats in the House of Representatives, 28 for governor and 531 for mayor.

Reyes said his men had set up checkpoints in compliance with a Commission on Elections ban on the carrying of weapons during the election period. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Judge extends liberty for congressional bet

DIGOS CITY—A local judge has extended the temporary liberty of Davao del Sur congressional candidate Pablo Villaber pending the promulgation of a decision on his *habeas corpus* petition.

Last week, Villaber sought his release from the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation, arguing that the basis for his arrest was already overtaken by a new order clearing him of liabilities for violation of Batas Pambansa Blg. 22.

On March 22, NBI agents arrested Villaber by virtue of a warrant issued by then Judge Eloy Bello of the Regional Trial Court Branch 15 in Manila.

Villaber was convicted of duping a businessman. He appealed the decision, but his petition was dismissed by the Court of Appeals' third division.

The Supreme Court affirmed the conviction with finality in 1993.

While under the NBI custody, Villaber presented an alleged order by Judge Bello setting aside the warrant of arrest.

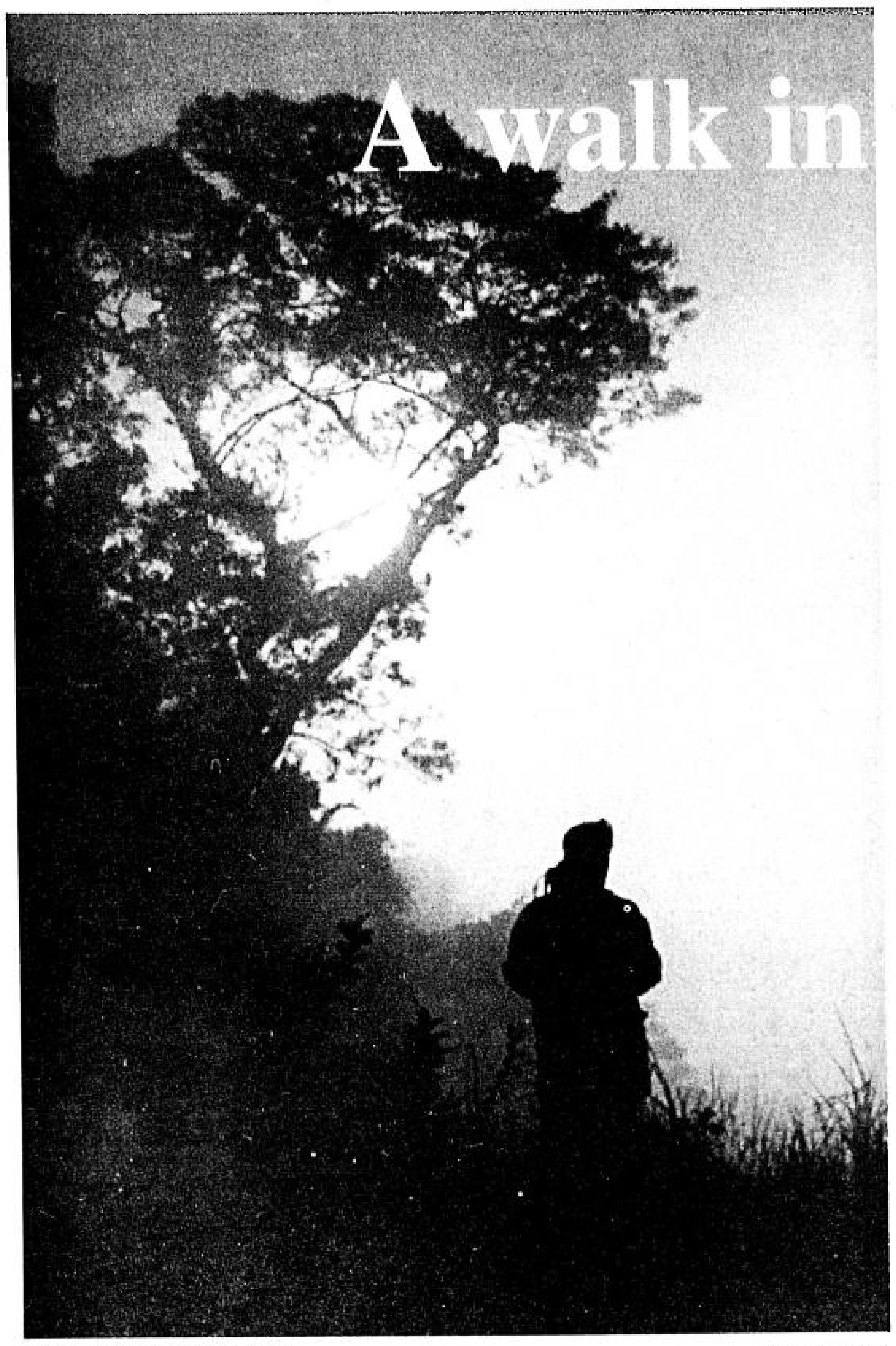
The order, dated Feb. 20, 1994, was allegedly issued by Bello after Villaber and the complainant, Efren Sawal, reached a settlement.

But Artemio Tajon, provincial prosecutor who acted as defense counsel for the NBI, said Judge Bello did not issue the Feb. 20 order.

Tajon presented Desiree Dayag, a clerk of court of Manila RTC 15, who testified that the order rescinding the warrant of arrest did not exist.

Judge Hilario Mapayo of the RTC Branch 19 here said he could promulgate the resolution of the *habeas corpus* petition next week.

He amended his March 26 order to put Villaber under the custody of his lawyers by extending the period until the promulgation of the resolution. ***Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



SUNRISE over Mt. Manunggal. ALLAN DEFENSOR

MT. MANUNGGAL TREK

A walk in the clouds of history

By Joselito Costas
Balamban, Cebu

IN LIFE as in death, President Ramon Magsaysay Sr. was endeared by the masses.

His 44th death anniversary celebration on March 17 drew more than a thousand people from all walks of life to the cloud-smothered summit of Mt. Manunggal in Barangay Magsaysay, Balamban, Cebu, where he and 25 others died in the presidential plane crash in 1957.

Hikers, local town officials, military men, motorcycle-riding daredevils, gay impersonators, enterprising villagers and, yes, local politicos hot to trot, trooped to the denuded peak 2,900 feet above sea level, to honor Magsaysay's death with speeches, stage shows, spirituality and stories from this historic mountain's unsung heroes.

Hundreds of students and urban professionals trekked from Tabunan, a village at the foot of Manunggal.

Others traveled via Cebu Transcentral Ecological Highway, a national road stradding a national protected area. They camped overnight, partied under the stars, and planted trees the following day.

But while they moved with their feet, there were also a few who moved with their hearts, like Iglicerio Nuya and Francisco "Paco" Magsaysay.

Iglicerio, 58, is the son of Marcelino, the heroic barrio lieutenant of Sitio Capio-an, who responded to Philippine Herald reporter and lone survivor Nestor Mata's cries for help a few hours after the plane, named Mt. Pinatubo, crashed.

The older Nuya died in 1991. Paco, 33, is President Magsaysay's grandson.

Ode to Magsaysay

Iglicerio and Paco met, shook hands and posed for a souvenir photo near the National Historical Institute-declared shrine engraved with an ode to

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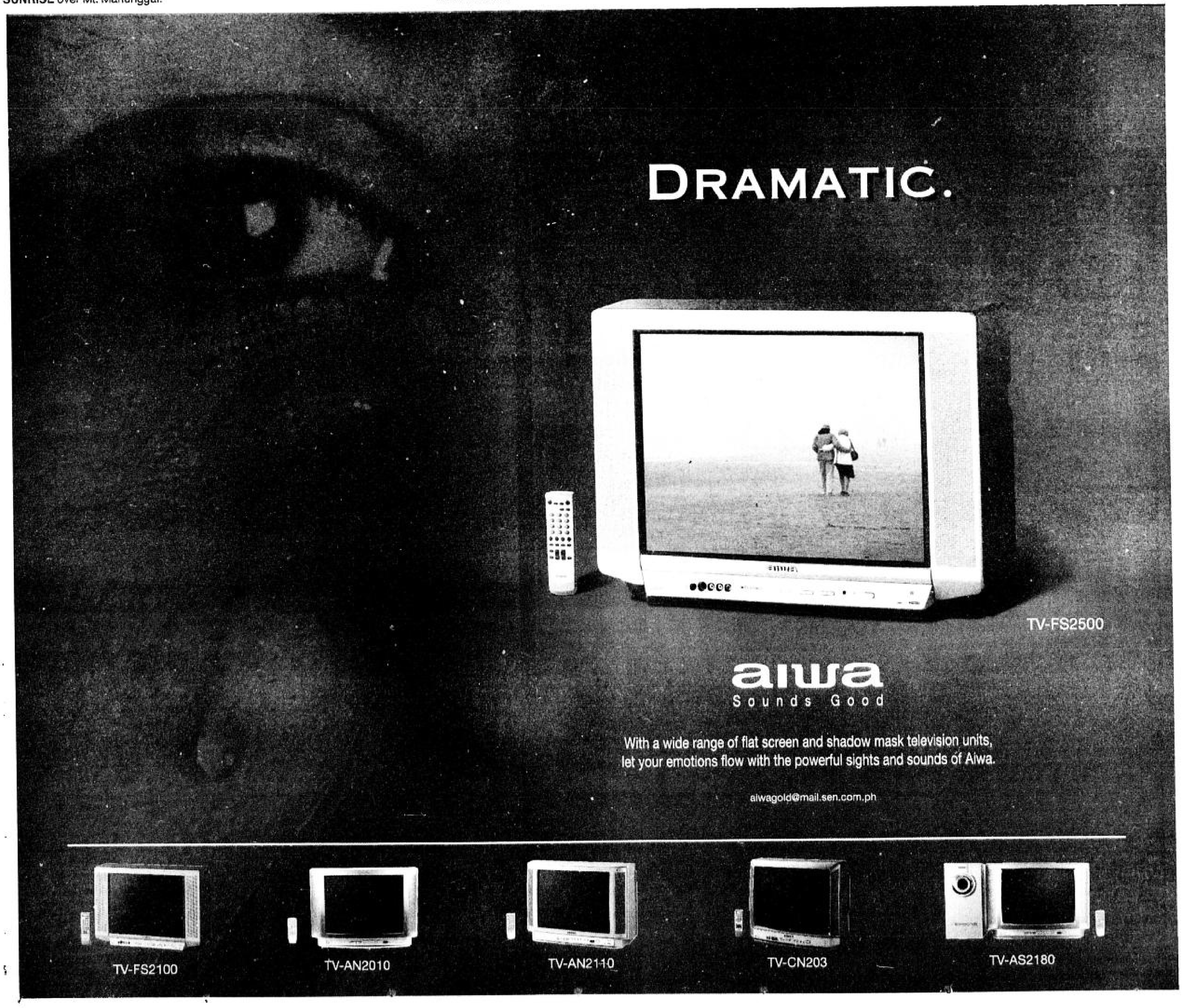

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They rescue dolphins, whales

BY ALEX PAL
Dumaguete City

ON ORDINARY days, Lawton Alcala is a biolo gist. Like most professionals, he keeps an eight-to-five job, and like most Dumagueteños, he gets around in a motorcycle.

CETACEAN rescuers stage a mock rescue of a beached whale amid heckling bystanders. ALEX PAL

You see him anywhere—in the grocery, church and office—so often that one would hardly notice anything unusual about him. That is, until a dolphin or whale gets stranded along the shores of Negros Oriental.

By then, seemingly ordinary people, like Alcala, spring into action. At a moment's notice, he alerts other people who show up at an agreed rendezvous. There's a policeman, a veterinarian, a scientist, an agriculturist, an environmentalist, a tour guide and even a journalist.

They are volunteers who comprise the Negros Oriental Marine Mammal Rescue Task Force or NOMMRTF.

As of now, there is only one rescue group for stranded marine mammals in the province. But plans are afoot to organize similar task forces in the coastal communities.

Communications

"Time is of the essence here. We believe that the faster a stranded marine mammal can be attended to and released, the better for their survival," Alcala, the group's coordinator, said.

In the absence of municipal rescue teams, the NOMMRTF is working on a plan to establish a workable communications system that would enable the team to respond immediately to reports of stranding anywhere in the province.

"The plan is for the fishermen who see stranded whales or dolphins to report to either the mayor or the chief of police of his town, who will then inform the provincial communications center, which is manned 24 hours a day," said Reuben Majam, the provincial officer of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The provincial communications center will then alert all the volunteer members of the NOMMRTF through VHF radio, cellphone or landlines.

The NOMMRTF was created recently by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP) in response to numerous incidents of marine mammal stranding in Negros Oriental.

Other successes

This rescue group is patterned after similar successful groups in Palawan and Bohol.

Dr. Terry Aquino, of the Palawan Marine Mammal Rescue Center, said that her group, in its three years of existence, had already responded to 17 rescues. "We can even project when they occur. But we just don't know where," she said.

To date, there have been over 20 known stranding incidents, both documented and undocumented, in the shores of Negros Oriental over the last three years.

The NOMMRTF had its baptism of fire last week when it successfully freed a beached dolphin from the shores of Barangay Mangnao in Dumaguete.

The stranding cases have caused concern among environmental groups in the country, which have limited data on marine mammals.

Fisheries Administrative Orders 185 and 185-1 protect dolphins and whales, but these are not seriously enforced. The protection of marine mammals has also been strengthened through the Fisheries Code of 1998.

Dolphins and whales are a common sight in the Tañon Strait, which separates Negros and Cebu islands. This body of water is home to at least six species of dolphins and three species of whales, and for this reason, it has been declared a protected seascape by then President Fidel Ramos, through Proclamation 1234.

Of the 20 coastal municipalities in Negros Oriental, 13 are bounded by the Tañon strait on the east.

Dolphin and whale watching tours are also proving to be a growing eco-tourism enterprise for Bais City.

Marine mammal stranding is believed to be caused by any of several factors, like pollution, sickness, bad weather and poisoning. The list may even be longer.

"We have to find causes," said Dr. Robert Baltazar of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

On top of food chain

Baltazar blamed human activity, such as hunting and trawling, for bringing the cetacean population to the brink of extinction.

Marine mammals mean many things to many people. Some fishermen believe that dolphins and whales compete with them in catching fish and are only too glad to eliminate them when they get caught in the nets.

This notion is, however, dispelled by scientists who point out that the fish found in the stomachs of the beached or stranded marine mammals are not of the same kind that humans hunt for.

"No one really understands the role of marine mammals, but scientists say they have a significant effect because they are on top of the food chain," explained Dr. Arnel Andrew Yaptinchay, WWF director.

For Erwin Dolumbal of the Negros Oriental CRMP, dolphin and whales are like canaries to miners, who alert them on danger whenever too much poisonous gases accumulate in the mineshafts.

"If these creatures are gone, we could ask ourselves, Who would go next?"

Lori Tan, an environmentalist and member of the inter-agency task force for marine mammals, said the presence of whales and dolphins tell us where the food can be found because they are on top of the food chain. "When we save marine mammals, we save ourselves."

Useless ban

BREAKAWAY

Ivan P. Suansing

SQUABBLING local candidates, mostly politicians who are building on their connections with the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, bug the People Power Coalition (PPC) campaign, but there's nothing the PPC can do about it.

The problem recently exploded in Iloilo City when supporters of Sen. Franklin Drilon and Rep. Raul Gonzalez fought over chairs during a rally at the Jaro Plaza. Gonzalez, who had rented the chairs, reportedly drove away Drilon's men who were already occupying them.

The rivalry between the two Edsa 2 "heroes" overshadowed the coalition's "13-0" pitch and stole the show from the Senate aspirants.

Gonzalez, a prosecutor in deposed President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial, and Drilon, a judge, aren't only gunning for reelection. They want to establish themselves as the leader of the Ilonggos, a title that's also being coveted by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

The two-term congressman is betting on mayoral candidate Jerry Treñas, an original Lakas member who is trying to bounce back from a whipping by three-term Mayor Mansueto Malabor in 1998.

Drilon, on the other hand, is backing Vice Mayor Guillermo de la Llana, a popular dentist who belongs to the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) "conscience bloc." De la Llana played second fiddle to Treñas in the last polls, but not this time.

Interestingly, Treñas, De la Llana and the third mayoral aspirant, former Rep. Rafael Lopez-Vito of the House "silent committee" fame, were allies against the small-town tyranny of former Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon. Later, they also ganged up on Malabor.

Now that Ganzon and Malabor are out of the picture, they have turned against each other, proving again that in politics, there are neither permanent friends nor enemies.

How will PPC handlers resolve this rivalry? They won't. As in the case of Cebu City, the coalition's strategy is to put its Senate candidates above the morass of local politics.

This can work, but only if the administration party has enough money to make everybody happy.

* * *

NIPPON AMBUSH. "The last time the Japanese were ambushed was during World War II," says former Mayor Tomas Osmeña. "It happened again during Mayor Alvin Garcia's administration."

Osmeña's blow hits the mark and the city mayor can only search for answers as he reels.

Cebu City's crime problem, underlined by the recent street assault on Japanese engineers of the South Reclamation Project, has become a top election issue.

Top police officials have been relieved, but jeepney robberies, holdups, bag and cell phone snatchings still take place every day of the week. Sensational crimes, bloody murders and big-time heists happen every other day.

The mayor has left the problem to the police, an abdication of a function that his political opponent will cash in during the campaign.

* * *

USELESS BAN. The ban on "Live Show" has not stopped many people from watching it.

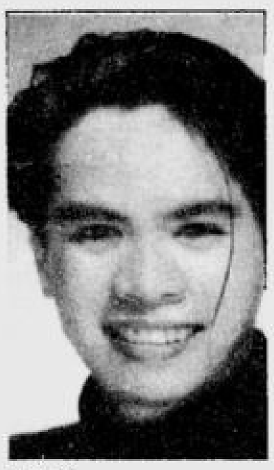
Videotapes of the film are all over the place, rented over the counter, sold on sidewalks or passed around.

The presidential ban is supposed to cover everyone, but in reality, it applies only to the poor, those who don't have a video player or money to spare for a good *toro* movie.

Bet distributes short stories, not handbills

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

INSTEAD of giving away calendars and handbills, a young writer running for councilor in Dumangas town, 42 kilometers north of Iloilo City, distributes a collection of his award-winning short stories to voters.



NERY

Peter Solis Nery, 32, is running under the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), along with established politicians in the town. His campaign style, however, differs because his Hiligaynon short stories were welcomed not only because they are a novelty on the campaign trail but also because they are a rare find in rural areas that hardly have access to reading materials.

"The parents were surprised that their children know me. I read poetry and did story telling before elementary school pupils in Dumangas," said Nery, who is currently the entertainment editor of The News Today, a weekly newspaper in Iloilo.

Nery's tract is a 20-page booklet titled "Fantasia" that includes his photos, his two short stories—"Lirio" and "Pangayaw," and his life story. He had distributed some 3,000 copies in Dumangas and planned to reprint a few thousands more. There are about 28,000 voters in the town.

Nery made a name for himself by winning third prize in the 1998 Centennial Literary Prize for script writing. Also in that year, Nery won the Palanca Award, his first, for the short story, "Lirio."

His recent awards include another Palanca award for the short story "Pangayaw" and a grant from the Cultural Center of the Philippines for Hiligaynon poetry.

"Lirio" and "Pangayaw" are stories that do not only entertain but also settle in the minds of readers long after their telling. "Lirio" is a tragic story of a deaf mute, while "Pangayaw" is populated with supernatural heroes of age-old legends. Both stories offer lessons on how to negotiate many maladies that readers face this millennium.

From his winnings, Nery was able to travel to the United States where he studied filmmaking and acting. He appeared in cameo role for several independent filmmakers in Hollywood. He also became a poetry reader and stand-up comedian in clubs in Santa Monica and Los Angeles City.

Outstanding graduate

Nery honed his writing and acting abilities when he was student at the University of the Philippines (UP) in the Visayas. He excelled in both academics and student activities. He was the university's most outstanding graduate in 1990.

In answer to what he felt was a spiritual calling, Nery joined the Society of Missions for Africa and studied philosophy at Christ the King Mission of the SVD in Quezon City.

He was sent to Macau and Hong Kong where he worked with overseas contract workers as a missionary.

Nery taught at the Jesuit-run Sta. Maria Catholic School in Iloilo City and joined the UP-Visayas as a philosophy instructor in 1997. In between teaching and church work, he wrote and published several titles.

Getting into politics is also Nery's way of responding to a call do public service.

If he wins, Nery plans to "retire" from politics after a three-year-term. By then, he will be 35, a time for him to fulfill another calling—to enter a monastery.

A walk in the clouds of history

(From page A17)

the late President penned by Iglicerio's daughter Adelina. Iglicerio then recounted his heroic deeds to the young Magsaysay.

He was 14 years old when he and villagers Primo Son and Fortunato Baynos secured the bodies and the crash site from possible looters while his father informed city government officials below.

It was very memorable for Iglicerio seeing the President for the first and the last time up close, sprawled, face down. Was this the humble President he admired so much for getting a haircut with the local barber in Toledo? He asked himself.

"*Dugay na ko'ng nakadungog nga president si Magsaysay apan kadto pa ko nakakita niya. Di ko katoo pag-ingon ni Nestor Mata nga kauban niya ang atong presidente* (I always heard of him that he was our president. But I cannot believe it when Nestor Mata said he was with the president at the time of the crash)," he proudly tells Paco.

Raised in the United States, Paco could only nod his head and smile. He said he always wanted to visit Manunggal. "I've always known and heard about it."

Feeling it

Paco admits that he can connect the mountain to his grandfather's distant memories, but he confesses he cannot feel his presence in Manunggal.

"There's not really much I feel. And I didn't even know the engine is still there," he says. His father, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. was 18 years old at the time of the crash.

A white cross towers above the US Army DC-47 Douglas plane's twin engine now fixed in a concrete marker that summons the names of President Magsaysay, Air Force Chief Brig. Gen. Benito Ebuen, Education Secretary Gregorio Hernandez, Rep. Pedro Lopez, ex-Sen. Tomas Cabili, Cesar Rama, lawyer Jesus Rama, and 19 others who boarded the presidential plane from the old Lahug airport.

Except for the engine, US Navymen who trekked to Manunggal's forested slopes two days after the crash retrieved the wreckage.

Some people however, were quick to discern the place's spiritually.

"Camping overnight helped me connect with my ancestor's spirit," says Manila-based travel writer Suzanne Faelnar-Camara, who is distantly related to Rep. Pedro Lopez, a former member of Gen. Douglas McArthur's legal staff.

Cebuanos in that ill-fated fight were Cesar Rama, 27, Cebu correspondent of the Philippine News Service; and lawyer Jesus Rama, 28, son of ex-Sen. Vicente Rama.

Every year, Iglicerio and other village heroes commemorate their favorite President's death by retelling their stories to curious visitors.

"*Sa akong hunahuna, anugon si Magsaysay. Sayo namatay. Ang ubang president, dili maayo apan dugay hinuon namatay* (In my opinion, it was very sad that he died early. Other presidents are not good but they lived even longer)," he says, matter-of-factly.

Shifting his gaze to the shrine, he says, "*Apan magpabilin ang iyang monumento nga handumanan sa iyang kaayo* (But his monument will be a living testament to his goodness)."

The 8th Philippine president, Magsaysay successfully launched major programs in land reform, social welfare and public works, and suppressed the Huk rebellion. Carlos Garcia succeeded him.

Village hero

Another village hero is 66-year-old Segundo Rebollos, who recounted how his group brought Nestor Mata in a hammock to the Southern Islands Hospital in Cebu City.

"*Nasunog ang iyang bukok ug lawas. Walay panimuot ug magsige's ingon nga telepono, telepono* (His hair was singed and his body had burns. He was unconscious and he kept on saying, 'Telephone, telephone')," Rebollos says.

Later, Mata would ask for the hammock as a memento.

Mata came with Magsaysay's group to Cebu in the afternoon of Saturday, March 16, for courtesy calls on former President Sergio Osmeña, and graduation speeches at three local universities.

Magsaysay dropped by at the house of former Gov. Manuel Cuenco and visited writer and Cebu Press Club president, Cornelio Faigao, who was dying in a local hospital.

The plane left for Manila past 1 a.m. the following day. A few minutes later and 12 aerial miles from the city, it crashed into a mountainside.

Wreckage

At the wreath-laying ceremonies, Iglicerio recounted the early morning of March 17, when he, his father and their dog, Abante, found the plane's wreckage. Its right wing was snagged in the branches of a huge *lauaan* tree.

Earlier, a farmer saw a forest fire and reported it to the barrio lieutenant. Apparently, Iglicerio said, it was also the dog's yelp that led them to the crash site.

Today, Manunggal is touted as a camping destination. But so far, it has no real tourism value to speak of. There is a chapel, a marker and a shrine but no toilet facilities. Government officials have to be careful with what they campaign for. The fragile ecosystem is strained and it has to be nurtured before pilgrims and trekkers flock in dizzying numbers. It is a concern for everyone who wants a walk in the clouds of history.

Manunggal had already claimed the souls of 26 mortals, a portentous sign that if need be, mountains, like humans, have their own way of achieving complete nirvana.

GMA: It's not Sin but his spokesperson

(From page A1)

She was reacting for the first time to criticisms that the cardinal was meddling in government decisions.

But in defending Sin, the President may have inadvertently shifted the allegations of meddling on the cardinal's spokesman and rector of the Edsa Shrine, Msgr. Socrates Villegas.

The President said it was she who sought the prelate's advice on what to do with Nicanor Tiongson, former chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB). Sin did not ask her to ban the film.

But it was Villegas who had suggested for the President to "fire" Tiongson.

It seemed the President heeded this advice.

Tiongson, after talking with Ms Macapagal in Malacañang on March 20, resigned the next day, as he was forced by the President to make a choice between banning the film or quitting the MTRCB.

Gentleman

"It's about time that I speak, in fairness to Cardinal Sin. He's such a gentleman that he has taken all the blows," Ms Macapagal said. "He did not ask me to ban the film. I was the one who called him through Msgr. Soc Villegas to say that I have a problem with Nick Tiongson because of all these NGOs, anti-porn NGOs (that) were up in arms about the film, 'Live Show'," she said.

"Monsignor said, 'What would you like us to do?' Can you talk to Nick Tiongson, I said, and ask him to ban the film?" she recounted.

The President said Villegas called back and said, "You know, we want to help you. If you think that Nick Tiongson is not helping you, you can go ahead and fire him."

"What I am saying is that it was I who called the cardinal to tell him about the protest. It was not he who called me to tell me about the protest (on the film's showing)," she explained.

Ms Macapagal displayed a touch of irritation when asked about the decision to ban "Live Show," a filmic social commentary depicting the poverty that drives people to resort to performing sex on stage for a living.

She reiterated her administration's high moral standards to differentiate it from that of the previous administration.

"And I don't think that the spreading of pornography even if it is well-made and even if it is soft-porn is the way by which we improve moral standards in government and in society," she said.

She also expressed irritation, when questioned why she would call up Sin and take the advice of Villegas to fire Tiongson.

Because Tiongson was recommended by the cardinal," the President said.

Asked if this was a violation of the separation of the Church and State, she said, "No, because anybody can recommend, and it's up to the President to make a decision."

Another question which caught her ire was why she asked a Catholic Church official to talk to Tiongson about his official function.

Ellen Tordesillas, a newspaper columnist, pointedly asked the President why she thought that young people—18 years old and above—whom she believed were mature enough to vote, should not be allowed to decide for themselves what films to watch.

The President said she had answered the question "many times."

Support

Yesterday, the President got a high-profile support for her campaign against porn from Christian groups, moral crusaders and anti-crime and corruption organizations who flocked to the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang.

The rally, headed by the God's People Coalition for Righteousness, was intended to diffuse the one held in the same area last Tuesday by directors, bold stars and movie industry workers as well as leftist groups enraged over Ms Macapagal's banning of "Live Show."

The rally was dubbed "Prayer-Family March for Decency and Nation-Building," and attended by hundreds of members of the Jesus Is Lord Movement, Lalko, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez of the Concerned Artists for Peace and Human Rights, Muslim preachers and leaders of party-list groups Citizens' Battle Against Corruption, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

Among the more familiar faces were actress-turned evangelist Coney Reyes, Martin Nievera, Pinky de Leon, Dulce and Donita Rose.

In a manifesto, the marchers pledged support for the moral reform and cultural development agenda of the President as members of the newly organized National Movement Against Poverty (NMAP).

Real pimp

It is poverty that is "the real pimp that pushes men, women and children to . . . sell their bodies," according to a statement by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Social Action-Justice and Peace.

"And poverty is largely caused by the government's failure to fulfill its duty to protect and provide for its citizens," the CBCP statement said, which was issued not only to coincide with the anti-pornography rally at Mendiola but appeared to counter it.

The CBCP statement said it was not enough to recall the showing of a sexually explicit movie. It described "Live Show" as "replete with unnecessary and intrusive verbal expletives and graphicness" but it is "a depiction of painful realities that few have the courage to confront."

It wasn't so for the anti-pornographers at the Mendiola rally. Villanueva, the Jesus is Lord leader, said they are even considering to take" serious legal and punitive action against all forms of pornography in the country," starting with the producers and directors of sex-oriented films and sellers of pornographic videos.

Toward the end of the rally, the protesters burned smut magazines and tabloids showing bold pictures and portraying sex stories, although the INQUIRER spotted several of the participants buying the magazines and tabloids from stalls along C.M. Recto Avenue.

Mr. Mike Arroyo was to administer an oath to the rally participants committing each to "A Filipino nation of decency and integrity" by recognizing that pornography has "disastrous effects" on the family and society and by joining the war against it. Mr. Arroyo is the anti-poverty movement's honorary chair.

Heavy rains failed to dampen the mood of the some 600 demonstrators, who assembled at the University of Sto. Tomas campus at noon and marched to the bridge two hours later, singing charismatic songs and chanting "No to pornography!"

One of the organizers, Villanueva's son Joel of the Kristiyanong kabataan para sa Bayan, claimed God sent the rain to "wash away the sinfulness" of the Tuesday demonstrators.

Non-negotiable

At the MOPC, President Macapagal said she would not allow the moral gains of People Power II to be dissipated.

The President claimed that her administration would be known for its high moral standards.

Earlier, she claimed that her decision to ban "Live Show" was non-negotiable, despite a review of the film which she had directed the Malacañang Appeals Committee to do.

The committee headed by the President's spokesperson and chief of staff, Renato Corona, is supposed to have submitted its recommendation yesterday. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Ballot theft . . .

(From page A1)

Borra said. "Imagine what these unscrupulous persons could do once they get a copy of the format of the ballot."

Although official ballots are made of special security paper, fake ballots will nevertheless be difficult to distinguish because of the chaotic counting of votes in the country, according to Borra.

No names and pictures

The Comelec official also warned about another form of cheating, this time involving party-list groups.

Borra said party-list groups placing the names or pictures of any of their five nominees on their campaign materials face sanctions.

He said he received information that some party-list groups, coalitions and parties were banking on the popularity or name recall of some of their nominees so that they could win one or more of the 53 party-list seats in the House of Representatives.

A total of 162 political parties, sectoral parties, organizations and coalitions have been accredited to participate in the party-list system in the May 14 elections, the Comelec announced yesterday.

The Comelec en banc has issued a resolution requiring that the names or pictures of the nominees of party-list groups, coalitions and parties are not included in campaign materials like posters, streamers and leaflets.

A number of party-list contenders, however, have ignored the resolution.

These include Partido ng Maralitang Pilipino-Pinatubo Party, whose posters have the picture of nominee Kuh Ledesma; the Philippine Jury Movement whose posters include the name of a certain Attorney Icaonapo; Green Philippines whose streamers prominently display the name and picture of Waldy Carbonnel; and Aksyon Demokratiko, whose posters have the line "Partido ni Raul Roco."

Borra said the inclusion of the names or pictures of nominees in the campaign materials of party-list groups would defeat the spirit of the party-list system.

The system allows small political parties and marginalized and underrepresented sectors to be represented in the House.

The Constitution identifies eight sectors—labor, peasants, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, disabled, youth and women.

Republic Act No. 7941, the Party-list Law, added four sectors namely, the elderly, veterans, overseas Filipino workers and professionals, to the party-list system.

"The party-list elections should be spared from personality politics," Borra said.

He said that even in the filing of the party-list groups' petition for registration and manifestation of participation, the names of their nominees were not included.

The Comelec has given the 162 accredited party-list groups until today to submit the names of five nominees who will represent their party or group if ever they win one or more seats in the House.

Under the party-list system, a voter can vote for just one group and not for an individual candidate.

If a party wins 2 percent of the total number of votes cast for the party-list, it is entitled to one seat. If it wins 4 percent, it is entitled to two seats. If it gets 6 percent, it is entitled to three seats. A party is entitled to a maximum of three seats.

Spare tires

The fourth and fifth nominees shall serve as "spare tires" in case any of the party-list groups' three sitting nominees can no longer represent the group due to resignation, expulsion from the group, death or disability.

Records of the Comelec show that there are six groups representing labor. Six groups are from the peasant sector, five each from the youth and overseas workers, four from the indigenous communities, three from veterans and two each from the fisherfolk, elderly, handicapped and the women's sector.

Thirteen groups represent the professionals.

The Comelec also accredited 78 organizations and coalitions, and 26 political parties for the party-list elections.

Borra also said that movie actors were violating election rules.

TV programs

He said reelectionist Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and other movie stars and TV personalities running for local elective positions must quit their TV shows and movie careers during the 45-day campaign period for the local elections, which started yesterday.

Under the implementing rules and regulations of the Fair Elections Act, the Comelec has prohibited the screening of movies and documentaries portraying the life of a candidate. Films of an actor or media personality, who is a candidate himself during the election period, are also banned.

Borra said no radio, cable TV or TV station should allow the scheduling of a program or permit a sponsor to favor or oppose a candidate or political party by unduly or repeatedly referring to the candidate or party in a program.

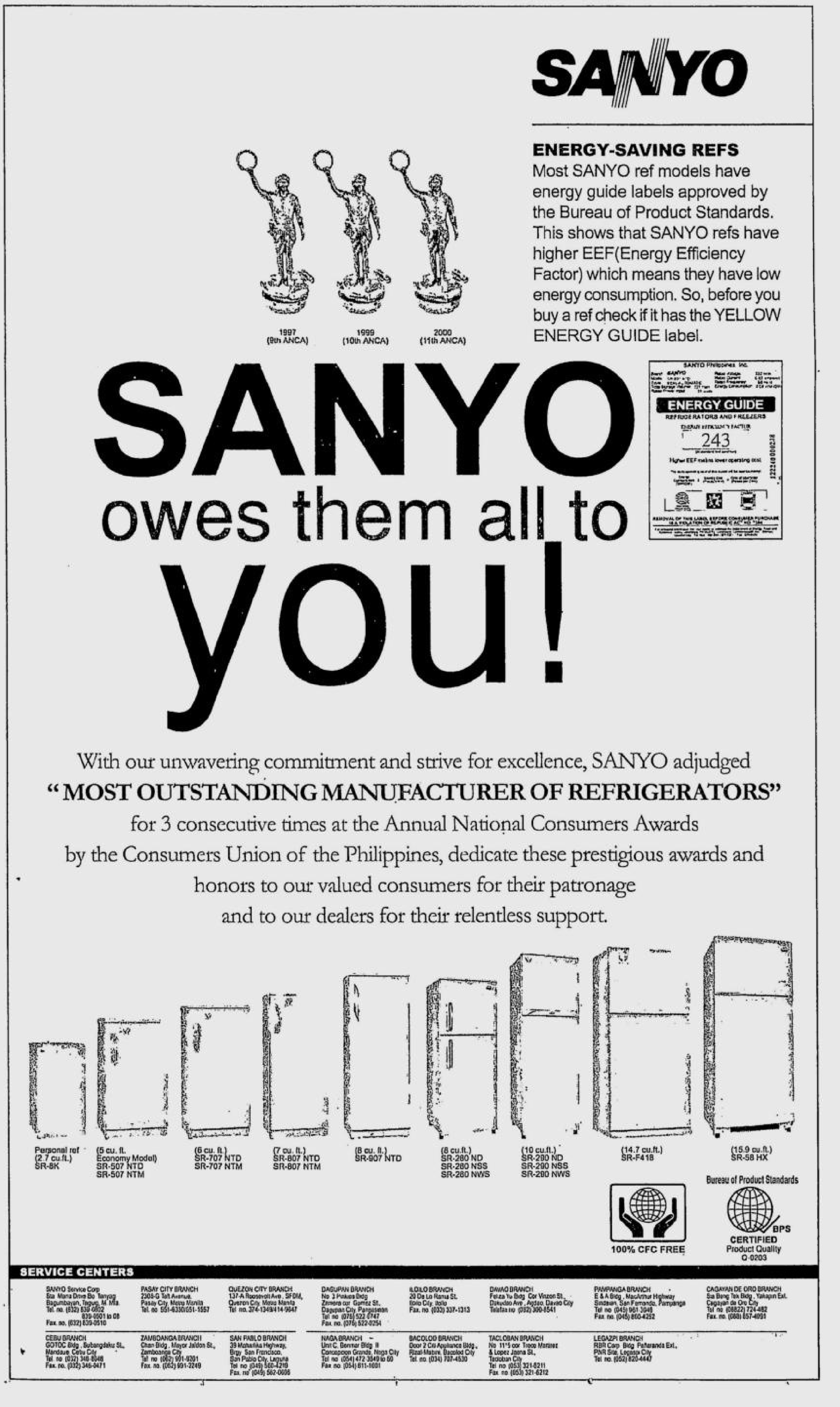
Affected by the prohibition are Revilla, who topbills the weekly sitcom "Idol Ko si Kap" on GMA-7, Quezon City mayoral candidate and action star Rudy Fernandez who hosts the public service program "Kasangga," also on GMA-7, and former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who is running for mayor in the nation's capital, who has "Katapat" on ABS-CBN.

Ginebra San Miguel, a gin brand, may also have to stop airing Revilla's TV commercials endorsing the popular drink. Fernandez, on the other hand, is endorsing the cigarette brand More whose commercial is still being aired.

Newspaper columnists and reporters and TV and radio commentators, announcers, reporters, on-air correspondents, and personalities who are candidates for public office or are campaigning for candidates are deemed resigned or on leave from their media work during the campaign period.

These regulations cover congressional candidates Teodoro Locsin Jr., Today publisher and "Assignment" host of ABS-CBN; ABS-CBN reporter Ronald Estella, ABS-CBN newscaster Ted Failon, and dzMM radio reporter Rod Izon.

The Comelec, meanwhile, has yet to declare the nuisance candidates among the more than 60,000 candidates vying for 17,526 local elective posts, including congressional seats.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DOJ to call Estrada, FVR on Dacer killing

(From page A1)

"As much as possible, we do not want to bother Estrada unless it is absolutely necessary," the justice chief told reporters, following a claim by two farmers that they assisted members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in the killing in Indang, Cavite.

So far, 14 suspects, including farmers Jimmy Lopez and Alex Diloy, have been charged with double murder in the case. A preliminary investigation has been set for April 23.

Perez also identified Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and former National Security Adviser Jose Almonte as possible sources of information regarding Dacer's disappearance.

Perez said that the justice department was looking at all angles in the case.

He noted that before the publicist was allegedly abducted, he had confided to friends like Singson, Desierto and Almonte his fears that he had been singled out by Estrada and then Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson as the point man in a supposed plot to destabilize the Estrada administration.

On Wednesday, Almonte made public a letter allegedly written by Dacer, showing that the publicist believed that Estrada and Lacson were monitoring him. The ousted President, who was also an old friend of Dacer's, expressed only concern after the PR man was reported missing.

Happy to help

Dacer was reportedly on his way to meet Ramos when he was abducted on Nov. 24 at the height of the "Juetengate" scandal.

"On the day Bubby Dacer disappeared, he was still able to talk to former President Ramos . . . We want to find out what was it they talked about to help resolve the case," Perez told reporters.

"We will ask for his statement. I'm sure he will be happy to assist. After all he is Citizen Fidel," he said.

Ramos said in an interview with ABS-CBN television that he would be glad to answer questions about the Dacer case.

If justice officials decide that what Ramos has to say is material to the case, he will be asked to execute an affidavit "just like any ordinary witness," Perez said.

Perez plans to bring National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco and NBI Regional Director Samuel Ong with him if Ramos agrees to an informal discussion.

'Like long-lost friends'

Estrada ally Asistio said that there was no reason for Estrada to kill Dacer, recalling that the last meeting between them at Malacañang "was like a reunion of long-lost friends."

Asistio told House reporters that Dacer arrived at his residence for dinner one night and they reminisced "about the good old days." One of Dacer's daughters is married to a relative of Asistio.

Asistio said he phoned Malacañang to tell Estrada that Dacer was with him, and that the President immediately invited them to visit him at the Palace.

The congressman said the meeting between the two men was cordial, adding that they, too, reminisced about their youth.

Perez said that visit to Malacañang could merit Asistio an invitation from the Department of Justice.

"All leads shall be pursued. We'll look (for more) than the actual persons who killed Dacer and his driver," Perez explained.

"We have to know what prompted them to kill because we cannot accept that they would have killed for no reason," he added.

Protection

Perez said Lopez and Diloy—the two farmers who admitted to taking part in hiding Dacer and Corbito and disposing of their bodies—were now being "physically protected" by the DOJ.

"We have decided to extend the protection to their immediate families. This does not yet mean they are in the government witness protection Program. We are in the process of putting them there," Perez said.

Yesterday morning, NBI agents brought Lopez and Diloy to the DOJ, where they affirmed the sworn statements they had given to NBI investigators.

The NBI has also recommended to state prosecutors that, apart from the 14 already charged in the double murder case, several others be indicted, including PAOCTF members SPO4 Mariano Soberano, SPO3s Mauro Torres and Jose Escalante.

"Other names recommended for prosecution" are Crisostomo Purificacion, Digo de Pedro, Renato Malabanan, William Lopez, Jovencio Malabanan, Margarito Cueno and Rommel Rollan.

'Yes, sir'

In his statement to investigators, Jimmy Lopez said he led Purificacion, Escalante and Soberano to his brother William's house when they brought Dacer and Corbito to Indang, Cavite, on Nov. 24.

Escalante, Soberano and Purificacion were assigned at the time to the PAOCTF unit in the Visayas, Lopez said.

He said the group arrived between 3 and 4 p.m. and stayed at William's house until the two victims were brought to a nearby creek to be killed. The bodies were later burned, according to Diloy.

Lopez noted that while passing the time in William's house, the three policemen's cell phones were constantly ringing. They responded several times to the caller's questions with the phrase "yes, sir," he said.

Lopez later identified the caller as "Col. Teofilo Viña, chief of PAOCTF-Visayas."

Naming names

"It seemed they were waiting for something. They always talked on their cell phones and always said 'yes, sir' to the one on the phone. The three of them said they were talking to a certain Colonel Viña," according to Lopez's statement, written in Filipino.

"Every half hour, one of them would receive a call from this person . . . (this went on) until dusk," he added.

All the while, Dacer and Corbito were hog-tied and their eyes and mouths covered with masking tape, Lopez said.

Lopez said he did not witness the murders personally since he was unable to walk long distances and stayed behind while the rest of the group went on to the creek.

But Diloy, who confessed to helping dispose of the bodies, tagged Torres, De Pedro and William Lopez as the men who killed Dacer and Corbito.

He made the allegation in a news conference Thursday. In his sworn statement, Diloy said he witnessed De Pedro strangle Dacer while William Lopez killed Corbito.

P1,000 gift

Dacer was killed first, according to Diloy, who claimed he was "about seven steps away" when the murders took place. The scene of the crime was near a lot owned by William, and the firewood used to burn the bodies was gathered from the lot, he said.

The two farmers, in their separate affidavits, said the victims were murdered around 8 p.m.

Diloy said the group had brought along flashlights, which was how he was able to see what was going on.

He said Escalante and Torres doused gasoline on the corpses and set them on fire.

Two days after the murders, Diloy said, Torres approached him in Barangay Buna Lejos II (not Buen Ajelos as earlier reported) and offered him P1,000 without explanation.

"I didn't know what the money was for," Diloy said in Filipino. "At first, I didn't want to take it but (Torres) insisted."

Last Christmas, Jovencio Malabanan offered him P500 as a holiday gift, Diloy added.

'Arrest Ping'

Militant groups such as Bayan Muna yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the Department of Justice to issue a warrant of arrest against Lacson.

The party-list group also asked the President to instruct the Commission on Elections to disqualify the opposition candidate from the senatorial race.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya demanded the immediate arrest and filing of criminal charges against Lacson, claiming the evidence was sufficient to warrant an arrest order.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (KMP) lauded the two farmers, even though the two are suspects themselves, for standing up against the "dreaded" PAOCTF.

KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos claimed that the statements of Diloy and Lopez pointed to Lacson as the mastermind of the alleged crime.

"The Macapagal government must immediately charge and arrest Panfilo Lacson. He is Estrada's hatchet man and logically the principal suspect in this case," said Ramos.

According to the KMP, no subordinate would have performed the "politically motivated" killing without acting on authority—in this case, Lacson's. *With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Cynthia Balana; AFP*

Lacson urges PAOCTF men to cooperate in NBI probe

(From page A1)

making the confession.

"If we decide to investigate, it is for adopting legislation concerning the limitations of the functions of task forces under the police and may lead to the abolition of the PAOCTF," Ople said at a news briefing.

He said he found it "unusual," for instance, that the PAOCTF had a budget much bigger than that of the "entire" Armed Forces.

In Naga City, Lacson's fellow LDP-PnM candidate Ricardo "Dong" Puno urged the NBI to file charges against those behind Dacer's abduction and murder, even if this would include Lacson.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Puno, a former press secretary, said the NBI should only make sure that its investigation would not be politically motivated.

"Let's not make it a partisan sort of thing. Let the axe fall where it will . . . Bubby Dacer was a friend. We were together at the MOPC (Manila Overseas Press Club). He was fair to me," Puno said, adding:

"I'm sure Lacson will be able to adequately express his side. It's a matter of investigation. We don't want it to be a witch hunt.

"If they (the NBI) get to the point where they can file a case, (they should) go ahead. The accused have the right to defend themselves."

Demolition job

Lacson said he expected more stories to be fabricated against him as part of the alleged demolition job of the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC).

But he expressed confidence that the public would judge him on the basis of his 30-year track record in the police force.

"When we were fighting criminal syndicates involved in kidnap for ransom, car theft and bank robberies, we were hailed as heroes for peace and order. When we effectively stopped *kotong* (mulcting) and other forms of corruption in the police service, we were praised by all, especially the poor. Now, this demolition job would like to picture us as public enemy No. 1," Lacson said.

He also said he expected a demolition job when he entered the political arena, but that he did not think it would be as vicious as the alleged campaign against him.

But PPC senatorial candidate Liwayway Vinzons-Chato said neither the coalition nor any of its allies had anything to do with the information on the Kuratong Baleleng and Dacer cases that had recently surfaced.

"We're not doing anything," she said. "Even before (Lacson) considered running (for senator), there were already issues and information coming out (about him)."

Chato said it was just propitious that witnesses were coming out at this time and tagging the PAOCTF in the murder of Dacer and Corbito.

'Hasty conclusions'

Ople urged the government, particularly the Department of Justice, to refrain from making "hasty conclusions" about the Dacer case.

"The DOJ should stop announcing conclusions on the basis of incomplete findings just to pander to pressures from the media," he said.

Asked if he thought Lacson's senatorial campaign would be affected by the implication of PAOCTF agents in the Dacer case, as well as the revival of the Kuratong Baleleng case, Ople said "it would be difficult for Lacson to defend himself from a lot of innuendoes."

"Of course, that shows he's considered a worthy target, being one of those in the upper end of political surveys," Ople said.

He added that the supposed demolition job on Lacson could be courtesy of Supt. Reynaldo Berroya and even the PPC.

But the PPC's Chato said there was no reason to do a demolition job on Lacson because the coalition did not see him as a force to reckon with in the May 14 elections.

"We just have to wait for these people to come out," she said. "If he has nothing to hide, he doesn't have anything to worry about because the truth will definitely come out."

Chato added that the PPC's 13-0 goal was "attainable" because many areas in the provinces that were earlier seen as supportive of the disgraced Joseph Estrada had "indicated that they're now with the administration."

Political gains

In Davao City, senatorial candidate Orlando Mercado, also of the LDP-PnM, appealed to politicians not to use the Dacer case as an issue in the election campaign.

"With due respect to the family of Bubby Dacer, we should hold our comments as regards who is responsible . . . Let's keep Bubby Dacer's and his driver's lives out of the campaign," he said.

Mercado said he expected some candidates to be "too eager" to use the case for political gains.

But he said that if there was evidence to warrant the filing of charges against the persons responsible, this should be submitted in court and not dragged to the campaign trail.

"Let us not get ahead of ourselves here. Let us go by the evidence. I think we might make the mistake of jumping to conclusions. This might end up as part of the election campaign," he said.

Mercado, however, did not express agreement with Lacson's contention that the Dacer case was being used as part of an alleged demolition job, and that the two witnesses were tortured into making a confession.

"I don't know. I am not in a position to make an honest and intelligent assessment considering the fact that I have no access to the evidence," Mercado said. *With reports from Christine Avendaño, Dona Pazzibugan and Blanche S. Rivera; Hernan P. dela Cruz and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Controversial lawyer objects to arrest of two farmers

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC,
JEROME ANING
AND CATHY YAMSUAN

A LAWYER claiming to represent farmers Jimmy Lopez and Alex Diloy in the Bubby Dacer murder case said there was a miscarriage of justice since his clients were originally arrested for gun and illegal drug possession.

In a press conference, lawyer Ric Valmonte showed reporters copies of the National Bureau of Investigation's report to the DOJ dated March 28, saying that the farmers were arrested on drug-related charges.

But NBI National Capital Region chief Samuel Ong hinted that influential people from the Estrada administration were maneuvering to convince suspect Jimmy Lopez and Alex Diloy to retract their confessions.

This prompted the NBI to put the two suspects under closer guard, as the farmers announced yesterday that they were sticking to their statements.

Ong confirmed that Valmonte and another lawyer, Nole Panganiban, appeared at the NBI hours after the arrest of the two suspects on Wednesday, claiming to be their counsel.

Ong identified Panganiban as a lawyer of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force under the former leadership of Panfilo Lacson.

A background check by the agency showed that Panganiban was the lawyer who appeared before Ong in behalf of a seven-member PAOCTF team in February this year.

Valmonte has no known connection with the PAOCTF. However, in 1998, he charged then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with graft. The case was dismissed by the Ombudsman.

Last year, Valmonte filed the second impeachment case against the then Vice President, in relation to her family properties in California.

Valmonte was also the lawyer of controversial Parañaque ex-policeman Gerardo Tiong, who was convicted in the Vizconde case, and also acted as the counsel of Alberto Reyes, NBI medico-legal officer chief accused by three NBI employees of sexual harassment.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez warned Valmonte and Panganiban that the DOJ would recommend disciplinary action and possibly their disbarment, if it were proven that they misrepresented themselves.

Gloria gives up dream of 13-0

(From page A1)

do know that they cannot keep that campaign promise even if they win," the President said.

She declared that her "government is here to stay, with the full force of the Constitution and all organs of power sworn to protect and defend it."

Asked if she would run for President in year 2004, the President avoided answering directly, but did not rule out the possibility.

"That's up to Divine Providence," she said.

"I cannot say as of now that I will not run," she said at another point.

Ms Macapagal also said that she was "grateful" for a rise in her popularity rating from –4 percent to 24 percent in a recent Social Weather Stations survey.

"It's only human to want approval, so I'm grateful," she said.

Resurrection

The President warned that the "masters of the old politics" could "resurrect cronyism, corruption, incompetence and arrogance in public office—the very inequities that Edsa II rose up against."

But, she added, "only if we allow them to."

PPC senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo said "it is vital that the PPC wins all 13 seats up for grabs in the May 14 polls to give Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo a majority in the Senate."

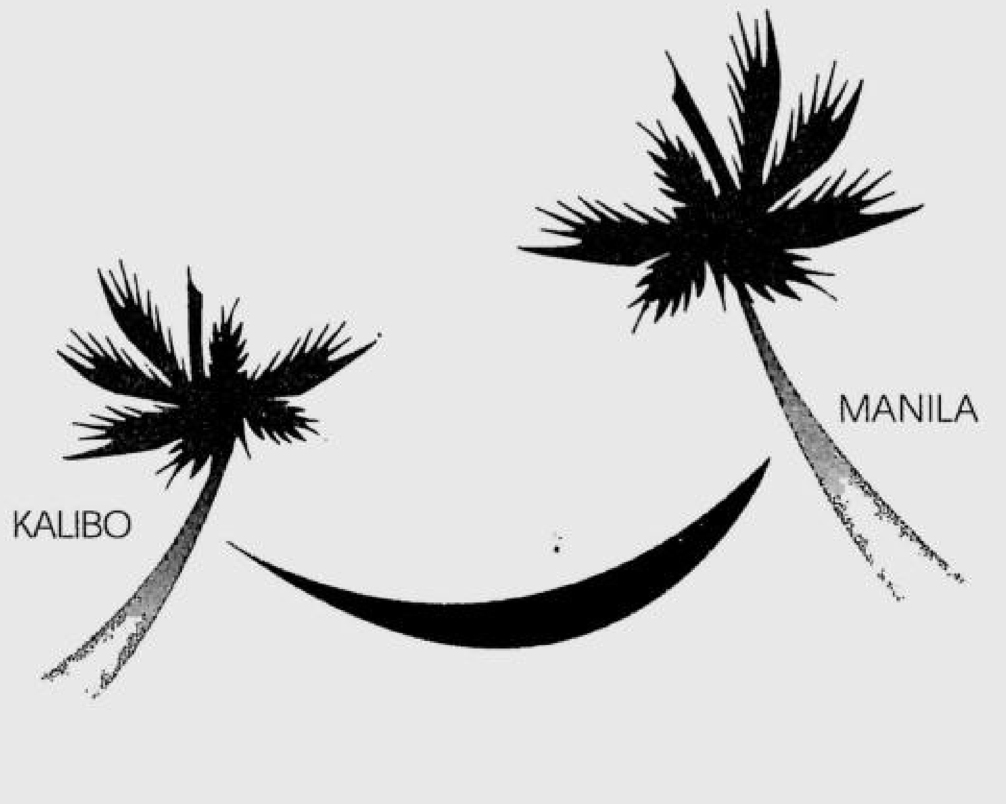
If this does not happen, he warned, Ms Macapagal would be held captive to pro-Estrada senators.

Arroyo, a House prosecutor in Estrada's aborted impeachment trial, also called on voters to do their share in preventing the ousted leader from getting away with alleged plunder by voting 13-0 in favor of the PPC.

The Makati congressman pointed out that most of the senators whose terms will end in 2004 are pro-Estrada politicians.

Although he did not name them, there are six such senators perceived to be pro-Estrada—John Osmeña, Robert Jaworski, Ramon Revilla, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Blas Ople and Vicente Sotto III.

"Let's not let Erap walk," pleaded Arroyo, who was in Bacolod on Thursday. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



More flights this summer to and from Kalibo starting March 24

ORIGIN	DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA
MANILA	KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950
		5J - 353	Daily	1030	1120
		5J - 341	Daily	1340	1430
KALIBO	MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120
		5J - 354	Daily	1200	1250
		5J - 342	Daily	1510	1600
CEBU	KALIBO	5J - 232	T/F/Sun	1120	1200
KALIBO	CEBU	5J - 231	T/F/Sun	1250	1330
DAVAO	KALIBO	5J - 594/232*	T/F/Sun	0930	1200
KALIBO	DAVAO	5J - 231/597*	T/F/Sun	1250	1540

*via Cebu

Also, new flights to and from Davao starting April 2

ORIGIN	DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA
MANILA	DAVAO	5J - 969	Daily	1700	1840
DAVAO	MANILA	5J - 970	Daily	1920	2100

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NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE PHILADELPHIA 76ers seemingly are headed for the top record in the Eastern Conference, enjoying a four-game lead over their closest pursuers, the Central Division-bound Milwaukee Bucks.

However, six losses in the last seven games have also allowed the red-hot San Antonio Spurs to overtake the 76ers in the race for the league's best overall mark, the winner of which is rewarded with homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs starting late April.

Led by double-doubles leader Tim Duncan and sweetshooting guard Derek Anderson, the Spurs have surged ahead by putting together a late-season run very similar to the one they engineered during the lockout-shortened 1999 season.

In that streak, the club won 31 of its last 37 games to gain homecourt edge throughout the postseason and eventually crushed the New York Knicks, 4-1, in the NBA Finals to become the first (and only) former ABA franchise to annex the NBA title.

This season is no different. Since Jan. 23, San Antonio was 27-6 going to yesterday's home encounter with Midwest Division rival Utah, winning consecutive games of eight and nine during the stretch.

The Spurs (50-21) sought to sweep their four-game head-to-head regular series against the Jazz (47-23) and increase their lead in the Midwest Division derby.

The Dallas Mavericks (46-25), who are headed for the playoffs for the first time since 1990, rank third and mathematically still have the chance to steal the division flag.

Out in the Pacific Division, the Sacramento Kings (48-22) solidified their hold of the No. 1 spot after routing the LA Lakers (47-25) at the Staples Center last Thursday. The win averted a four-game season-series sweep by the reigning NBA titlists and opened up a two-game lead (three in the loss column) over them.

LA Lakers sputter again

LOS ANGELES —The Los Angeles Lakers' second straight blowout loss had the Staples Center crowd chanting "Kobe, Kobe."

But Kobe Bryant couldn't help because he was sitting out his fourth straight game with an injured left ankle.

There's no telling when the NBA's third-leading scorer will return. And even when he does, the way things have been going nothing is guaranteed.

"I don't want to speculate about Kobe being out," coach Phil Jackson said sharply after a 108-84 loss Wednesday night to the Sacramento Kings. "I just want to talk about the game we played tonight and how we played.

With the playoffs three weeks away, the defending NBA champions are playing anything but their best ball. And they aren't assured of having homecourt advantage in any series, much less throughout the playoffs, as they did last spring.

Guard Ron Harper, a stabilizing factor, underwent knee surgery last week, and is sidelined indefinitely. The Lakers hope to get him back at playoff time.

"The beat goes on until we get them back," Fox said.

Shaquille O'Neal and Bryant have feuded, openly at times, and Jackson made some unflattering remarks about Bryant to a Chicago columnist last week, among them that Bryant had told him he was unhappy with the triangle offense because it didn't give him a chance to display his talent.

Complete results:

Washington 116, Golden State 100; Atlanta 104, Indiana 93; San Antonio 106, Utah 88; Milwaukee 104, Miami 96; Phoenix 90, Houston 85; Boston 106, Chicago 104; Vancouver 89, New York 68. ***AP***

Sir Richard derby tonight

MORE than 50 fights are in store for cockfight aficionados as the "Sir Richard sa Ucap 4-Cock Derby" sizzles at Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 tonight. Host is upcoming derbyist Richard Lim while sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

The event is fitting follow-up to the "8th Ucap Arnis Master 6-Cock Derby" Thursday night, where Esting Teopaco's EGT Stingers emerged solo champion after posting a perfect score of six points.

Eric dela Rosa and Louie Cua's Pian Marie LCC were co-second with 5.5 ponts.

Meanwhile, the 9th Ucap/Sagupaan Winning Line/Starwars Sagupaan 6-Cock Derby is all set this coming Tuesday and Thursday, April 3 and 5, with Patrick Antonio and Tony Lintonjua as hosts.

Submission of weights is on Monday, April 2, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Interested parties may contact 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

Mandaluyong Coliseum also presents the "Capitan 5-Cock Derby" on April 7 with partners John Capinpin and James Uy as hosts.

Roligon cockfest on

MORE than 70 matches await derby fans at Roligon Mega Cockpit today for the reformatted Bitawan Cockfest starting at 5 p.m.

Hosted by Soseng & Angel Gotengco, the derby features Laguna's finest cockers unleashing their finest aces against choice roosters from Metro Manila's toughest pitfighters.

Late entries can still catch up in the submission of weights set from 6 to 10 in the morning today.

Entry fee is pegged at only P5,500 with a minimum bet requirement of P2,200.

Meanwhile, a prize-rich post-Lenten season event awaits derby fans with the staging of the P2.7M Pukpukan sa Mega 6-Cock Derby on April 17 to May 1.

Hosted by Rolly Ligon, the contest stakes a brand-new Toyota Echo bonus for the champion, in addition to the huge guaranteed cash prize.

Entry fee is P9,900 with a P3,300 minimum bet requirement.

Williams ousts Hingis

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Venus Williams is 1.86 meters (6-foot-1) and looked even taller Thursday, playing high-wire tennis and rising above the debate about fixed matches and racist fans to defeat her most irksome rival.

The American gambled by swinging all-out on shot after shot, and the strategy worked. She controlled the rallies, kept defending champion Martina Hingis of Switzerland on the defensive and won, 6-3, 7-6 (6), in the semifinals at the Ericsson Open.

"That is my game, to hit the ball," Williams said. "Any time that I try to play otherwise, I become an average player."

She avenged the most lopsided loss of her career, a 6-1, 6-1 drubbing against Hingis at the Australian Open semifinals in January.

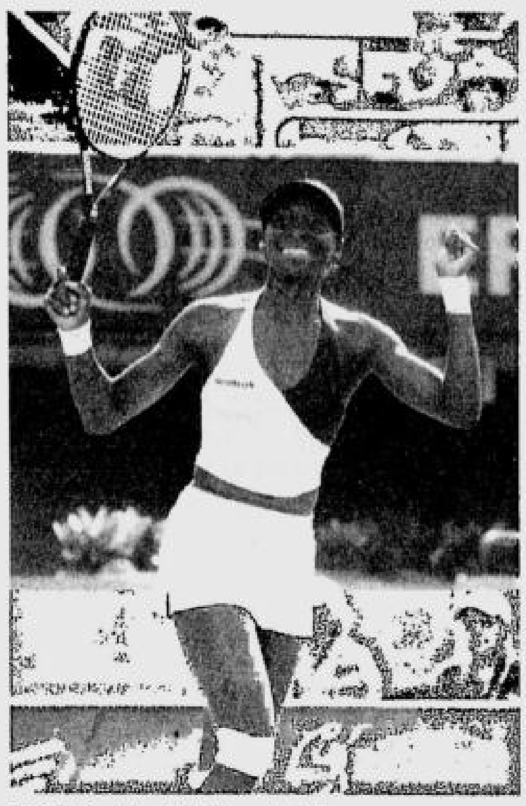
In Saturday's final, Williams will bid for her third Key Biscayne title against the winner of Friday's match between No. 4 American Jennifer Capriati and No. 7 Elena Dementieva of Russia.

No. 8 Pat Rafter of Australia beat Roger Federer of Switzerland, 6-3, 6-1, in 58 minutes and will next play the winner of the quarterfinal match to be completed Friday between No. 3 American Andre Agassi and Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia. It was suspended because of rain with Agassi trailing 3-1.

Controversy engulfed the Williams family following Venus' withdrawal from the Indian Wells semifinal against her sister Serena on March 15. There was speculation she ducked the match, and when the crowd booed the family, her father, Richard, said the jeers were racially motivated.

The Slovakia-born Hingis discounted his allegation as "nonsense," saying she could counter with a charge of racism against crowds in the United States because they're pro-American.

Williams defended her father and denied fixing matches but otherwise tried to stay out of the debate. ***AP***



VENUS: "Just hit the ball."

AP

Mitsubishi netfest on tomorrow

THE MITSUBISHI Lancer International Juniors Tennis Championship starts tomorrow, with world-rated campaigners in the 18 years and below division converging at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center for the 12th edition of the annual ITF Group 2 event.

The tournament, the third biggest and toughest juniors competitions in Asia, will stake four slots in the 32-man main draw of both the boys' and girls' division tomorrow.

Sign-in for the qualifying ends at 6 p.m. today.

The main draw competitions begin on Tuesday after a short opening ceremony to be graced by Mitsubishi president and CEO Teruhiko Shibata, Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, Philippine Tennis Association head Buddy Andrada and other MMPC and sports officials.

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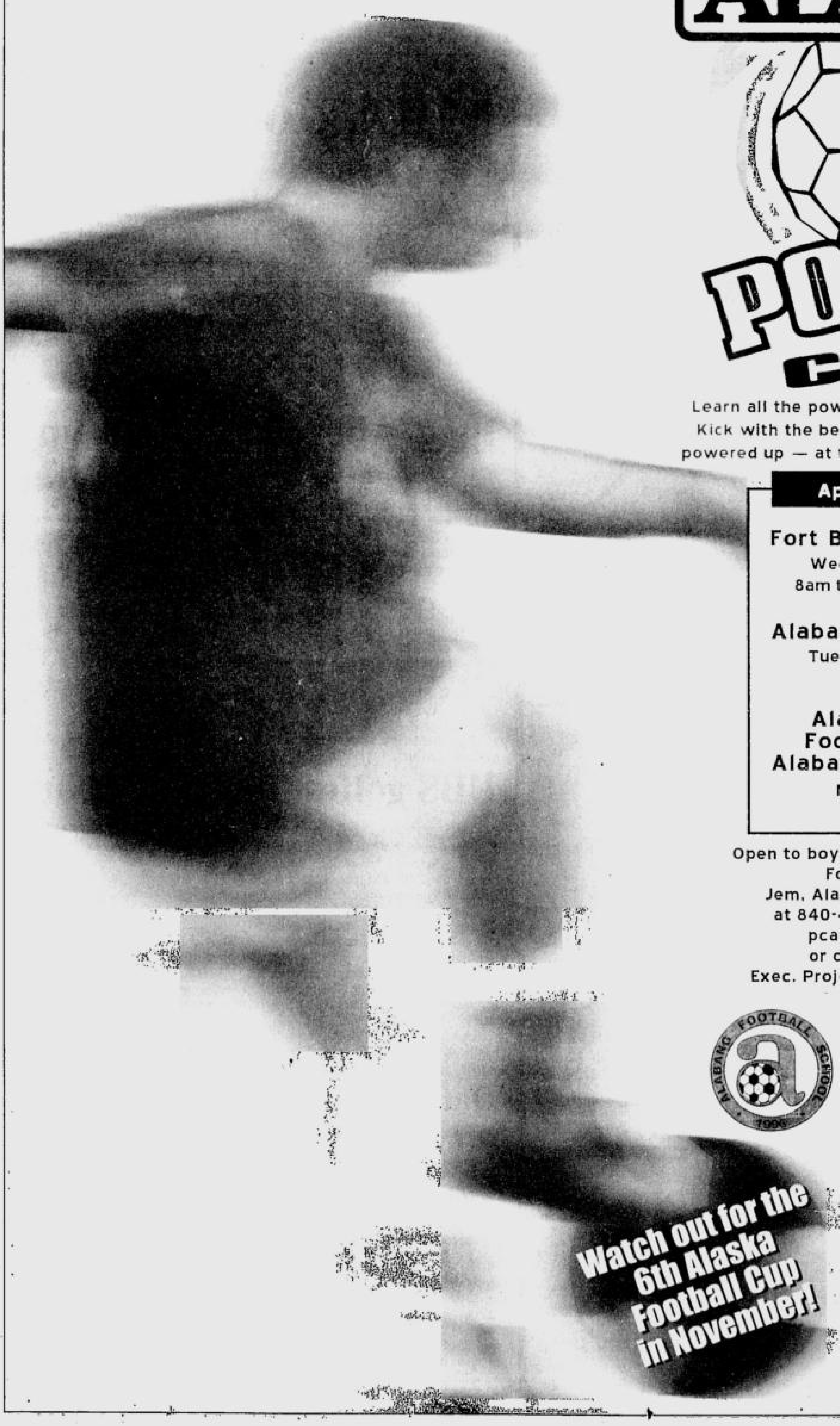
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Bong's crusade

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SAN MIGUEL Beer is the favored team in the Philippine Basketball Association?

Uh-oh.

I know that San Miguel is still the favorite drink in beer houses, parties and picnics nationwide. That is why SMB also means *Sarap Mag Beer.* Or, because summer's here, SMB now stands for Summer Means Beer.

But SMB supplanting the PBA as the "only league" to watch?

Hard to believe, fellas.

The SMB will never be the PBA. The PBA will always be the PBA: Hard to beat. No goodbyes as yet. It will kick the bucket only when it decides so. Nobody, no team, can be above the PBA. Not at this stage. It had happened a while back that, to a certain extent, Robert Jaworski became almost bigger than the PBA. Bigger in the sense that with Jaworski's presence, the league had consistently enjoyed acceptance, if not adulation. Jaworski's vise-like grip of the PBA matched Michael Jordan's hold of the NBA prior to Jordan's retirement in 1999. In Jaworski's absence (he is now a senator, in case you've forgotten), the PBA continues to miss the good ole days of wine and roses, so to speak. And, in Jordan's absence, the NBA also continues to grapple with the sad reality of a puny ratings on TV. The PBA, just like the NBA, is now badly in need of a superstar in the likeness of a Jaworski to prop up its sagging image.

Now comes Bong Tan of Tanduay accusing PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino of playing favorites. If he was quoted correctly, the young Taipan was supposed to have said that San Miguel Beer got—and continues to get—preferential treatment from Bernardino.

Not funny. A serious charge, if you ask me.

But Bong Tan must have hurled the charge not to personally indict San Miguel. He had clarified it: Walang personalan dito. I can believe him. I know that Tanduay and San Miguel make good music together, meaning they have good business dealings since way back. The Kapitan himself will be the first to admit that.

Bong Tan still hurting over Bernardino's decision only a while back to deflect Tanduay's bid to lure Danny Ildefonso out of San Miguel by dangling a multi-million peso offer? Said offer even covering Ildefonso's retirement from basketball? A laudable Tanduay move, I had said then?

Prior to that, Bong Tan's two supposed Fil-Ams—Sonny Alvarado and Eric Menk—got axed for allegedly submitting fake documents to back up their Filipino lineage.

Like a volcano threatening to explode, Bong Tan finally exploded on Wednesday, three days after his Tanduay team lost to Pop Cola in a technical-riddled game that saw the ejection of Rhummaster Jeffrey Cariaso. After the game, Bong Tan was said to have destroyed the door of Tanduay's locker room, a charge he has denied.

"Jeffrey did it," said Bong. "I scolded him and I even swept the debris out of harm's way."

Part of Bong Tan's explosion Wednesday evening was his threat to bolt the PBA and join the MBA.

"We only want to play basketball but, seemingly, Commissioner Bernardino does not want us to do that," Bong Tan said. "Maybe, in the MBA, we can play basketball."

He must have said that obviously to put the blame on Bernardino for the referees' perceived biased officiating against Tanduay last Sunday.

Conspiracy?

Hard to tell.

But I can tell you it's not wise for Tanduay to leave the PBA now. What will Bong Tan achieve if he does that? By choosing to leave, what will he try to prove? Ang inis talo, di ba?

If a fight is to be waged, fight it from within and not from without. Bong Tan's crusade—if crusade it must be called—must be waged till the last drop of blood, or rhum, if you wish.

Anything lesser than that is cowardice.

Yenko steps in

■ Tan's outburst puts PBA in disarray ■ Cariaso fined P22,000 ■ Purefoods wins

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m.—Alaska vs Pop Cola
6:30 p.m.—Shell vs Mobiline

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHAIR Ignatius Yenko of the Philippine Basketball Association yesterday said the PBA's board of governors will summon Tanduay Gold owner Bong Tan on Wednesday to hear Tan's grievances against the league and its officials.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Tan accused PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino of playing favorites with San Miguel Beer. Tan poured out his gripes against what he said was Bernardino's bias against Tanduay.

Last Sunday, Tan was given a technical during the Tanduay-Pop Cola game won by Pop, 82-75, in which Rhummaster Jeffrey Cariaso got ejected for two successive technicals. Tan drew the technical for stepping onto the hardcourt's demarcation line while trying to pacify Cariaso.

Yesterday, Cariaso was slapped a P22,000 fine for his two technicals and for breaking a glass door in a fit of rage after Sunday's game.

Tan had been erroneously reported as the one who broke the glass door leading to Tanduay's locker room.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer, Yenko said Tan's outburst was "blown out of proportion and has become an emotional issue."

He called on sobriety in the wake of Tan's plan to bolt the league in protest over the alleged unfair treatment accorded the Tan franchise last Sunday.

Tan had earlier ignored Bernardino's summons.

In a vote yesterday, seven of the 10 governors agreed to hear Tan's side.

"While Mr. Tan and the Tanduay management appear to have some grievances against the league and some of its officials, we will hear them out," said Yenko. "But it has to be in the proper venue which is a board of governors meeting."

Tan didn't attend yesterday's emergency meeting.

Yenko also denied Tan's claim that the PBA is basically a "San Miguel" league.

Meanwhile, a team owner who refused to be named, said Bernardino must "start acting like a PBA commissioner" and do something about the problem particularly the games' officiating.

SMB team manager Robert Non said "we respect Tanduay's opinion." He refused to comment on Tan's outburst, though.

In yesterday's first game, Purefoods defeated Ginebra, 85-78, to strengthen its chances of making it to the Top 4 in the PBA All-Filipino Cup.

Olsen Racela canned two free throws with 4.1 seconds left to lift San Miguel Beer past Batang Red Bull, 78-76, in the second game. San Miguel rose to 8-4 and assured itself of the twice-to-beat privilege, while Red Bull fell to 6-6 following its fourth straight defeat.

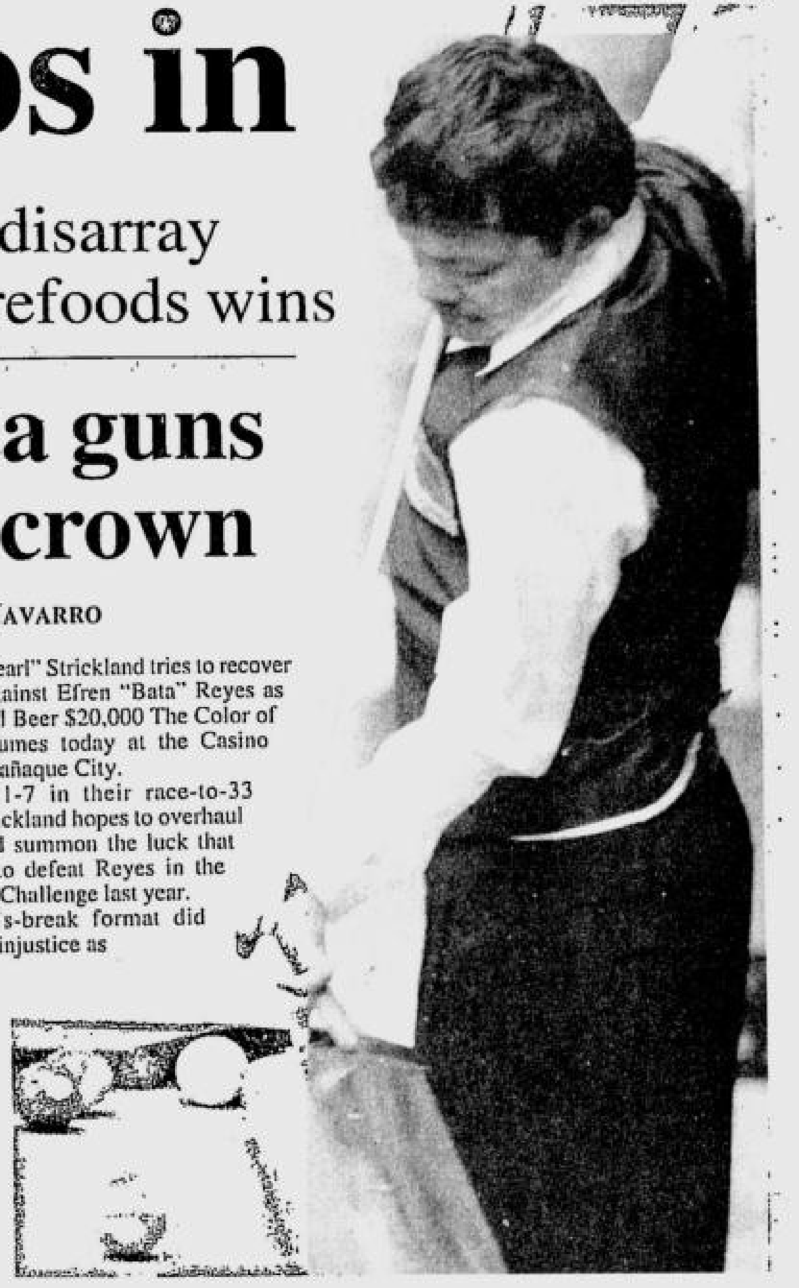
PUREFOODS 85—Castillo 27, Seigle 23, Patrimonio 13, Evangelista 12, Feihl 6, Yap 4, Fernandez 0, Magsanoc 0, Yee 0.

GINEBRA 78—Limpot 21, David 12, Helterbrand 12, Meneses 9, Caguioa 9, Calpito 6, Crisano 5, Ong 2, Lago 2, Magtulis 0.

Quarters: 23-16, 37-37, 62-51, 85-78.

Bata guns for crown

By June Navarro



BATA REYES: Closer to the $15,000 top prize. ROGER MARGALLO

EARL "The Pearl" Strickland tries to recover lost ground against Efren "Bata" Reyes as the San Miguel Beer $20,000 The Color of Money II resumes today at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

Trailing 11-7 in their race-to-33 encounter, Strickland hopes to overhaul the deficit and summon the luck that allowed him to defeat Reyes in the RP-US 9-Ball Challenge last year.

The loser's-break format did Strickland an injustice as the five-time US Open champion was more attuned to shattering the marbles first after each won rack.

"Obviously, I had a hard time getting my rhythm going. I'm just not used to a loser's-break format," said the 39-year-old Strickland, who lost part 1 of their Color of Money duel, 120-117, in Hong Kong way back in 1996.

Today's final encounter begins at 3 p.m.

On Thursday evening, every time Strickland snared a rack, his momentum simply dipped, causing him to lose focus in the succeeding racks.

From a 7-all count, Reyes swept the remaining racks to move to within a day of clinching the championship.

Their rivalry will end in another race-to-11 battle later in the night, with the champion pocketing $15,000 of the $20,000 pot.

Reyes won their first Color of Money encounter but Strickland got back at "The Magician" in the RP-US 9-Ball Challenge last year.

Strickland admitted had he shut his mouth during their race-to-120 battle barely five years back, he could have beaten Reyes and bagged the $100,000 top prize.

"Playing a hundred games is short so I brought up the idea of protracting the battle to 20 more matches," said Strickland. "It was only now that I realized the consequence of my suggestion."

MBA door open to Tanduay

By Roy Luarca

EXPLORATORY talks between the MBA and Tanduay Rhum's Bong Tan aren't new after all. These have been going on for the last four months.

Ramon Tuason, the MBA director for business development, bared this yesterday as he left the door open for Tan's entry, either immediately or next year.

"We will continue to pursue the talks with that (Tanduay's bolting of the PBA) in mind," said Tuason. "It's really up to him (Tan) to decide."

Among the avenues explored was for Tan, who announced his intention to bolt the PBA for the MBA on Wednesday night, to lend two players who are under the Tanduay payroll to an MBA team. That team, in turn, will carry the sponsorship of one of Tan's companies.

Tuason said Tan can join the MBA by choosing any of the three: (1) buy a new franchise, (2) buy an old franchise or (3) lease a franchise.

The Multi-Regional Board Inc., composed of team owners, however, is not keen on giving a new franchise yet.

The shortcut to Tan's entry to the MBA is buy one of the five financially strapped MBA franchises.

Another option is for Tan to form another team for the MBA and leave his Tanduay team in the PBA.

Tan can easily form a new team for the MBA since he has several marquee players who are still under contract with the Rhummasters but are unable to play in the All-Filipino because of citizenship problems.

Prominent among them are Fil-Ams Eric Menk and Sonny Alvarado. Alvarado was deported by the Department of Justice last year after failing to establish his Filipino roots. Menk still lacks the papers necessary to qualify him to go back to Tanduay.

Iggy, Abe lead Elena Cup

IGGY Clavecilla carded a two-under-par 70 and guest partner Abe Rosal backed him up with an even par 72 for a 142 total recently that made them the runaway leaders in the low gross competition after two days of the Sta. Elena Cup golf tournament.

But Steve Chan stole the spotlight by scoring a hole-in-one to win a Yamaha golf court and a Maxfli Revolution set. He is the guest of Lily Chan.

Clavecilla and Rosal opened up an eight-stroke lead over Jojo Guingona and Jose Mari Hechanova, who scored an 80 and 70, respectively, while Lito Castrillo and Jun Fernandez were in solo third at 161.

The other leaders were the tandems of Rico Cavestany-Ariel Abunal and Michio Akutsu-Vince Revilla in Class A (handicap 0-15), Boy de Borja-Philip Judan and Harry Liu-Teddy Patag in Class B (16-21) and Lucille Carlos-Sandy Squillantini in Class C (22 and above).

Meanwhile, market leader Nokia Mobile phones will be the main sponsor of the awarding ceremonies tomorrow night.

Aside from Nokia, the other sponsors are Rustans Group of Companies, Audi, Toyota Motor Philippines, Kart Plaza, Diamond Motors, Jomon Rugs and Carpets, Flying V, Paramount Vinyl, Marsman Drysdale, Blue Cross, Mirant Philippines, Volvo, Mayer Steel, PX Depot, Ford Edsa, GG&A Club Shares, Las Vegas Golf and Shell.

UBS golfest today in Cebu

CEBU CITY—The 3rd UBS Golf Tournament tees off today at the par-72 Cebu Country Club, which recently hosted the 54th Philippine Airlines Interclub Tournament.

The two-day, 18-hole event is sponsored by UBS, the merger of the Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Banking Corporation.

A total of 300 players are expected to take part in the tournament, with the first half of the field set to play today.

The tournament will use the full-handicap stroke play format.

The top three players of the four handicap categories for the club members and the top three of the guest division will receive prizes.

The player with the lowest net will be declared overall champion.

The tournament was first held in 1999, with Michael Go topping the 130-man field. Last year, Jerry Tan topped the 200-man cast.

At stake for a hole-in-one feat is a Ford Ranger pick-up on all par-3 holes. In case more than one will score an ace, the prize will be equally shared.

The award rites will be held tomorrow at the ballroom of Cebu Country Club.

Datu settles for 6-move draw

Standings after Round 10 (Men's)—Datu, 8.5; Laylo, Bitoon, Olay, J. Gonzalez, Rañoa, Sayson, Balico, C. Garma, Senador, Sales, 8.0; Maga, Donguines, Paragua, 7.5

Round 8 (Women's): Toledo, Rivera, Joya, 6.5; Torres, J. Cruz, Castellano, 6.0; Lomibao, Mariano, Castillo, Itaas, Flores 5.5; Caños, Catilo, Bernardo, 5.0.

FIDE Master Idelfonso Datu decided to walk on the safe side anew yesterday to maintain his half-point lead as he agreed to draw with National Master Darwn Laylo in the penultimate round of the National Chess Open eliminations at the Greenhills Shopping Center.

"I'm already tired. But most definitely, I'll play for a win in the last round (today) so I can make the cut," said Datu after settling for a six-move draw of a Sicilian with NCAA chess standout Laylo. Datu leads the pack with 8.5 points while NCAA standout Laylo has eight markers.

Joining Laylo in a ten-way logjam are top seeded Richard Bitoon, FIDE Master Jesse Noel Sales, International Master Chito Garma, NM Reggie Olay, NM Jayson Gonzalez, NM Allan Sayson, NM Jerome Balico and NM Emmanuel Senador, International master Chito Garma. Bitoon halved a point with Olay; Gonzales settled for a truce with Rañola; Garma drew with Balico and Sales equalized with Paragua.

SPORTSWATCH

Milo Checkmate on

THE FIRST summer series of the 2001 Milo Checkmate clinic in Metro Manila starts its lectures today at the Badminton Building, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila, and 2/F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. The clinics will be held daily from 8 a.m.-12 noon at RMSC and 2-6 p.m. at GSC. For more details, call 826-8560. Other slated clinics in Metro Manila are Fairview, Diliman & Parañaque—April 9-15; Alabang and Las Piñas—April 16-25.

PEACE chess

THE SIXTH leg of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express, best known by its acronym PEACE 2001, will be held today at 1 p.m. at Land Bank's Multi-Purpose in Makati City. Businessman Douglas Peña and Cyrus Atienza of Land Bank lead the current overall standings in their respective sections.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: 2001 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, Semifinal #1 at 8 a.m., Semifinal #2 at 11:30 p.m. on ESPN
2001 NCAA Men's Division 1 Basketball Tournament South Regional Final at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
NBA Action at 10:30 a.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA - New York Knicks vs Portland Trailblazers at 11 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN and Utah Jazz vs San Antonio Spurs at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Bellsouth Classic, Second Round at 1 p.m on Star Sports

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Palace Hero 2. King Edward 3. Sham Sham 4. Call to Action
Race 2—1. Something Silver 2. Fortune Maker 3. True Mighty
Race 3—1. Roppongi 2. Golden Figura 3. Premiere Treasure
Race 4—1. Lady Victoria 2. Ananpour
Race 5—1. Royal Harvest 2. Katya 3. Forest Dancer 4. Little Red
Race 6—1. Field Master 2. Mark's Treasure 3. Truthful Lady
Race 7—1. Affectionate 2. Lord Walden 3. King Ram 4. Super Trooper
Race 8—1. The Topnotcher 2. Tellmetonight 3. Dragon Heart 4. Scholar Tem
Race 9—1. Ricastar 2. Lord of All 3. Breakaway Artist
Race 10—1. Ayra's Pet 2. Mary Jane Girl 3. Morning Glory 4. Cubano
Race 11—1. Beatitudes 2. Fire Mouth 3. Wan Star 4. Fire Task
Race 12—1. Hurry Prince 2. Expediter 3. Royal Diamond 4. Sun Splash
Race 13—1. Charisma 2. Silver Lining 3. Dinner Dress 4. Foreign Exchange

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Ferrari rivalry heats up in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil — The rivalry is hotter than ever, but Ferrari teammates Michael Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello say there are no hard feelings between them as they prepare for the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday. "I feel closer to Michael than I ever have been," Barrichello said at a news conference Thursday. "I feel Ferrari gave me a fair and square chance of winning the Grand Prix if I'm able to." Schumacher was equally diplomatic with his Brazilian teammate. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Human rights not an Olympic issue

PARIS —Human rights are not an issue in the assessment of cities bidding to stage the 2008 Olympics _ and that's how it should stay, a top IOC official said Thursday. "We should not bring political factors into our evaluation," Hein Verbruggen, head of the IOC evaluation commission that completed a visit to candidate city Paris, told a news conference. *AP*

Montaña targets share of lead

STANDINGS	W	L		W	L
Shark	2	0	Welcoat	0	1
GIV	1	0	Hapee	0	1
Montaña	1	0	Osaka	0	1
Ana	1	1	Ateneo	0	0

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—Montaña vs Hapee Toothpaste
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Ateneo-Pioneer

BY DENNIS U. EROA

TITLE-HUNGRY Montaña Pawnshop seeks a two-way tie for the lead as it goes up against Hapee Toothpaste today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Getting the lift from vastly improved forward Francis Zamora, the Jewels are favored to prevail against the Sparklers in their 2 p.m. game.

Challenge Cup champion Shark Energy Drink hogs the solo leadership with two straight wins.

In another development, PharmaQuick enlisted the services of RP team slotman Omanzie Rodriguez and acrobatic Bruce Dacia, members of MBA champion San Juan.

Lawyer Jimmy Javier, also PharmaQuick's team manager, yesterday formally informed PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad of the change in the team's roster.

San Juan and PharmaQuick are sister teams owned by horserowner Sandy Javier. The addition of the 6-foot-6 Rodriguez and the 6-foot-3 Dacia will improve Pharma's bid to hurdle the eliminations. The duo will go back to San Juan at the end of the Chairman's Cup.

Defending champion Welcoat, notorious for its slow start, collides with dangerous Ateneo-Pioneer at 4 p.m.

Coach Leo Isaac gave the 6-foot-5 Zamora, a former Welcoat reliever, the playing minutes and the former La Salle stalwart responded with aplomb. He finished with 11 points aside from collaring nine rebounds in 25 minutes of action as Montaña opened its campaign with a 69-58 win over Osaka Iridology last Tuesday.

Others who shone for the Jewels were Gilbert Lao, Jacques Gottenbos, Aris Dimaunahan, Jenkins Mesina and Orly Torrente.

The Paintmasters are hard-pressed to win against the Blue Eagles, who are now in the final phase of their preparations for the UAAP.

Ateneo-Pioneer made it to the semifinals of the Challenge Cup. Peppery Edrick Ferrer will join forces with rebounding demons Rich Alvarez and Enrico Villanueva and sweet-shooting Rainier Sison.

Amateur basketball player of the year Ren Ren Ritualo and slotman Yancy de Ocampo banner Welcoat's bid.

Nat'ls agree to face PBL

THE PHILIPPINE Team is willing to play against the best of the PBL and even the PBA, especially if it's for charity.

This was the view of national coach Boyzie Zamar regarding the possibility of tune-up games pitting the RP team, composed of standouts from the MBA, versus selections from the country's other pro leagues.

"We are willing to play against the PBL selection especially if it's for a worthy cause, for charity. You can include a PBA selection if there's any. That won't pose any problem," said Zamar, who graced yesterday's SCOOP forum at Kamayan West Avenue with Nationals Romel Adducul, John Ferriols and Chris Calaguio.

The idea came about because a PBL selection was supposed to replace the RP Team in the coming Southeast Asian Basketball Association Men's Championship due to the leadership squabble in the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Freddie Jalasco, who'll be contesting the BAP presidency with Tiny Literal during an election ordered by the Philippine Olympic Committee to resolve the conflict, actually disbanded Zamar's Team after the players and coaching staff sided with Literal.

Zamar foresees an interesting game between the RP Team and the PBL selection

"The two teams are vastly different. My team has the experience while the PBL selection is younger and quicker," said Zamar, whose Nationals will be defending the Seaba crown against six other countries on April 2-7 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"We expect Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to be our toughest rivals for the title. We heard the Singaporeans have three Chinese national players in the fold." *Roy Luarca*

Filipina spikers drop 3 matches

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE PHILIPPINES suffered three straight defeats at the start of the Second Nestea Beach Volley Asian Women's Championships yesterday at the rain-battered CCP grounds.

Powerhouse countries China,Thailand and Indonesia humbled the host in its turf.

Johanna Botor and Helen Dosdos, the country's prime female spikers, bowed to the Thai duo of Kamoltip Kulna and Jarunee Sarnnok, 21-10, 21-11, setting the trend on the Filipinas' pathetic campaign in the eight-nation tournament.

The tandem of Glenda Pintolo and Cecille Tabuena followed suit, dropping a 21-13, 21-12 decision to the Chinese pair of You Wenhui and Pan Wangye.

Later in the day, the Indons demolished Sheryl Tumayao and Jennifer Bohawe of Philippines II in two sets, 21-13, 21-14.

On the other hand, China's Wenhui and Wangye displayed world-class brands of play after they also prevailed over Noriko Nakamura and Tomoko Ukigaya of Japan's second team, 21-19, 21-14.

Similarly, Bangkok Asian Games gold medalists Manatsanan Pangka and Rattanaporn Arlaisuk of Thailand registered double victories against Indonesia II, 21-10, 21-7, and Australia I in three sets, 18-21, 21-17 and 15-7.

Down in the first set, Pangka and Arlaisuk patiently worked their way up to wield the upset ax over Australia's Kylie Gerlic and Summer Lochowicz, a member of last year's runner-up squad.

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Vincent Yu seeks profitable transactions and works to achieve them. "In every business, one has to look ahead. The time GSM was launched, I knew soon enough the analogue cellphones and pagers used by my sales team would be useless," he recounts. "Although it was the financial crisis, we invested on **new Globe handsets** for the group. With the move, we were able to **save a lot**."

He feels it a worthy switch for the company. "Aside from being cost-effective, **Globe is very efficient** as well. While unwinding over dinner, I can send instructions to my staff through **multiple text** right away. Even if one of my staff's cellphone is off, I am assured that when he turns it on—the message will be there," he claims.

In-between meetings, New Zealand Milk's Sales Manager retrieves the **traffic update and WAPs** for more efficient sales operations. He also enjoys **Globe's lowest NDD and IDD rates** since, "It's a **fixed rate to anywhere in the country and around the world**. With landline, the rate depends on the distance between two parties calling." His need for Globe is also evident when he's on business trips. "When I go around the Asian region—I still get to manage my staff," he reveals.

Even in his personal life, Vincent relishes the pleasures of being **Globe connected**. He shares, "Well, my wife and I keep in touch with her family in Roxas City, by **calling Globe-to-Globe**. And we get to watch *They're Playing our Song* as a **Platinum Privilege**. But I will never forget the time we were in the mall with our son who was only two at that time. When he asked for a Kiddie Meal while I was in another shop, and my wife said her wallet was with me, he exclaimed, *'I-text mo!'* We were both surprised, that early he already knew text."

Now, Vincent can honestly say: **"Put me anywhere in the world, so long as I have my Globe, I'd be able to survive."**

I've got a Globe Handyphone.
I've got all I'll ever need.

Globe
HANDYPHONE
It's all in your hands

Hotline: 730-1000 / www.globe.com.ph

Voter's Voice 2001 Page A31

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

1 killed in Caltex robbery
Boy in the wrong place at the wrong time slain
A28

2 suspects in Feliciano rape-murder arrested

BY ALCUIN PAPA

POLICE yesterday arrested two suspects in the rape-slay of La Salle student Claudine Feliciano in Parañaque City.

Southern Police District lawmen under Parañaque City police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles conducted separate operations in Muntinlupa and Cagayan province to arrest Alejandro Versoza and Ernesto Berry.

Police said both men abducted, raped and killed Feliciano, 21, on March 10 somewhere in Parañaque. A few hours later, the men tried but failed to abduct another young woman, Janet Balis, also in Parañaque.

Berry was the first to fall. Authorities arrested him in Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa at about 7 p.m. Thursday.

Balis identified Berry as the man who grabbed her and tried to drag her to a waiting car, which turned out to be Feliciano's.

Police interrogated Berry, said to be a former barangay captain in Muntinlupa, and learned from him the whereabouts of Versoza, who went into hiding somewhere in Bulacan.

When Estilles' men went to the hideout of Versoza, alias Tisoy, 30, they were disappointed to find that he had slipped away.

Estilles' team tracked down Versoza in Baguio and then in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, where he was arrested yesterday at 12:45 p.m.

SPD director Chief Supt. Manuel Cabigon said the two suspects are part of a gang that also abducted and killed Helen Ko Calupig, 45, and her 14-year-old daughter, Arlene Grace, in January.

Earlier, the National Bureau of Investigation arrested two other suspected gang members, Albino V. Paradino Jr., 38, of Tunasan, Muntinlupa, and Alfredo P. Hernandez, 48, of Bayanan, Muntinlupa.

Cabigon also linked the gang to the abduction of a 54-year-old woman in San Pedro, Laguna in November.

He said the gang members would usually get high on drugs before they set out to stalk women. They usually picked car-owning women who went to the malls alone. Once they picked out a victim, some of the gang men would puncture the tires of the victim's car while the others would follow the victim around the mall.

As soon as the unsuspecting victim got in her car, the suspects would pull up alongside the woman's car and offer to change her flat tire.

When the woman got off her car, the suspects would then pounce on her.

Cabigon said this was probably the same modus operandi the suspects used on Feliciano.

Cabigon also noted that the suspects, in almost all cases, would suffocate their victims with a plastic bag.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the gang men also tended to steal the cars then kill the drivers and passengers to mislead authorities.

DENNIS SABANGAN

BERRY

Go after soldiers, dad of slain UST student tells police

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

DISAPPOINTED over the failure of police to produce results, the father of slain University of Santo Tomas student Mark Chua yesterday said investigators should invite for questioning former UST ROTC commandant Maj. Demy Tejares and Sgt. Genesis Binagatan, to shed light on his son's case.

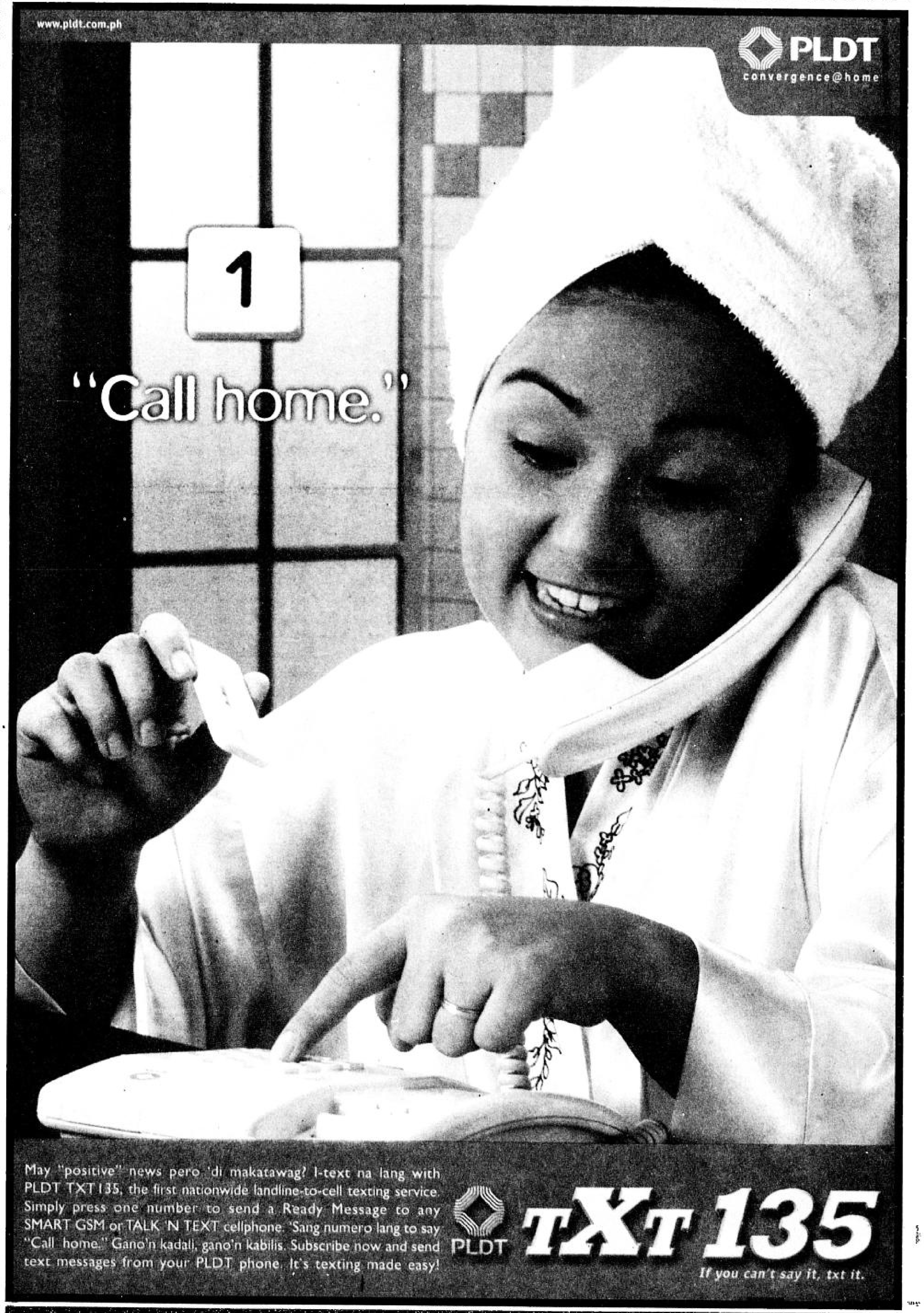
GO AFTER/A28

CHUA

Wazzzzup?

8th day BAR • CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	BRAINCHILD EDGE	P 300 CONSUMABLE ☎ 634..7696/98
AUDIOTORIUM 23 WEST AVE., QUEZON CITY	FREE VERSE	374.2330 / 373.5574
BUMA Grill & Bar 8595 KAMAGONG ST.MAKATI	ADAMS RIB	6-9 PM P 35 BI TI BEERS 896.2116/896.6554
Café OVERDRIVE FOTO BLDG., ATAMO EXT., MAKATI	MULATTO	FREE ENTRANCE 818.55.55/813.13.48
Cowboy Grill BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PINAS	THINKERS w/ JOGRAD FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1190 ARQUEZA ST., MABINI	HOMOSAPIENS KNIGHTS/HIMIG	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 481 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	STAYTUNED SWEETBLOOD	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	REPLICA BROWNIE/STREETLIFE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
KAMPO 2086 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	ERASERHEADS D' BOSS/ORIGIN	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.7181/83
EXAMINER'S LITE n'LIVE #57 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	LLOYD UMALI LIMITED EDITION	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎ 415.3196
Music WAREHOUSE 1006 QUEZON BLVD., MLA.	ERASERHEADS ROB/MUSIC NETWORK	P 200 W/ BEER & PICA-PICA
PADI'S POINT MANILA SM MANILA	INDIGO	NO ENTRANCE FEE 527.6180/527.6211
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	VERSE 2 TH-3	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 522.0429
OTHER PLACES		
Cowboy Grill BINAN, LAGUNA.	MR. ROXY ARTENSION	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ (049) 511.7268
Ka Freddie Music Restaurant MARCOS HIGHWAY, ANTIPOLO	MAEGAN AGUILAR PIRANHA	P 75 ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 677.0795
Jer's II 3RD FLR CHOWKING BLDG. REAL CALAMBA, LAGUNA	ALTER EGO	P 50 ENTRANCE P 200 CONSUMABLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 912-8983



May "positive" news pero 'di makatawag? I-text na lang with PLDT TXT 135, the first nationwide landline-to-cell texting service. Simply press one number to send a Ready Message to any SMART GSM or TALK 'N TEXT cellphone. 'Sang numero lang to say "Call home." Gano'n kadali, gano'n kabilis. Subscribe now and send text messages from your PLDT phone. It's texting made easy!

IT'S SO EASY TO SEND A READY MESSAGE:
1. Dial 135 and the cellphone number, then Press 2.
2. At the voice prompt, select your Ready Message.
- Press 1 for "Call home"
- Press 2 for "Take care"
- Press 3 for "Have a nice day"
- Press 4 for "I love you"
- Press 5 for "Happy Birthday"
- Press 6 for "Please come home early"
- Press 7 for "Please don't forget my bilin! Thanks."
- Press 8 for "Sorry, I'll be late"
- Press 9 for "Sorry, I can't make it"
- Press 10 for "Don't worry, everything will be okay"
3. Enter sender's name or send right away. Voice prompt will confirm if message is sent.

YOU MAY ALSO SEND THE MESSAGE OF THE WEEK:
1. Dial 135 and enter the 11-digit SMART GSM or TALK 'n TEXT cell number.
2. At the voice prompt, press 3 to listen to the Message of the Week.
3. The voice prompt will then ask you to enter the sender's name or send the message right away.
4. Afterwhich, the voice prompt will confirm whether or not the message has been sent successfully.

CAST UR VOTE IN THE TXT UR REQUEST ON GMA-7'S SOP!
- Dial 135, then 0919-7882135
- Press 4 to listen to the Songs of the Week. Then make your choice.
- Watch SOP JAMMING the following week to find out the most requested song.

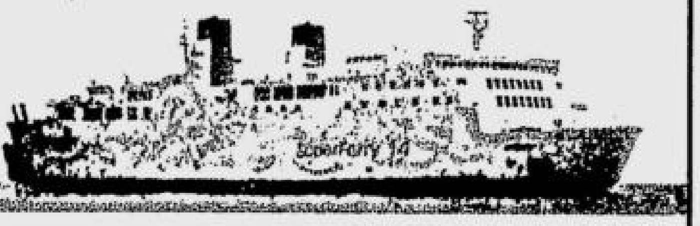
Sulit na, masaya pa!

Sakay na!

WG&A SuperFerry
www.wgasuperferry.com

*avail of the 20% discount on return trip for every roundtrip ticket purchase!

sailing schedule



*Not applicable on tickets purchased with other discounts.
Only one discount applies whichever is higher.

effective: March 24, 2001

From MANILA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	FRI	9:00 am	SF 14	P4	SAT	3:00 am	BREDCO
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	MON	6:00 pm	BREDCO
CAGAYAN de ORO	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	FRI	11:59 am	PUNTOD
	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	6:00 pm	PUNTOD
	FRI	9:00 am	SF 14	P4	SAT	5:00 pm	PUNTOD
CEBU	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	6:00 pm	CIP
	TUE	3:00 pm	SF 12	P4	WED	11:59 am	CIP
	THU	7:00 pm	SF 12	P4	FRI	4:00 pm	CIP
	SUN	9:00 am	SF 12	P4	MON	6:00 am	CIP
CORON	FRI	4:00 pm	MEDJU	P4	SAT	6:00 am	CORON
COTABATO	SAT	10:00 am	SF 2/5/9	P4	MON	5:00 am	POLLOC
DAVAO	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
DIPOLOG	FRI	11:59 pm	SCHRT	P 14	SUN	3:00 pm	DPLG
DUMAGUETE	MON	11:59 pm	MEDJU	P14	WED	11:00 am	DGTE
	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	FRI	4:00 am	DGTE
DUMAGUIT	MON	6:00 pm	LIPA	P4	TUE	10:00 am	DUM
	WED	2:00 pm	LIPA	P4	THU	5:30 am	DUM
	SAT	2:00 pm	LIPA	P4	SUN	5:30 am	DUM
GEN. SANTOS	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	WED	8:00 am	MAKAR
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	MON	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILIGAN	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	SAT	9:00 am	ILIGAN
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	10:00 am	ILIGAN
ILOILO	MON	10:00 am	SF 14	P4	TUE	4:00 am	LOBOC
	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	FRI	5:00 pm	LOBOC
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 1/8	P14	SUN	5:00 am	LOBOC
MASBATE	TUE	11:00 pm	SCHRT	P 14	WED	6:00 pm	MSBTE
NASIPIT	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	WED	10:30 am	NASIPIT
	THU	11:59 pm	SF 1/8	P14	SAT	10:00 am	NASIPIT
OZAMIS	THU	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P14	SAT	1:00 pm	OZAMIS
	SUN	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	TUE	2:00 pm	OZAMIS
PALOMPON	TUE	11:00 pm	SCHRT	P 14	THU	3:00 am	PALOMPON
P. PRINCESA	FRI	4:00 pm	MEDJU	P4	SAT	8:00 pm	PPS
ROXAS	MON	6:00 pm	LIPA	P4	TUE	12:30 pm	CULASI
	WED	2:00 pm	LIPA	P4	THU	8:30 am	CULASI
	SAT	2:00 pm	LIPA	P4	SUN	8:30 am	CULASI
SURIGAO	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	WED	4:00 am	SURIGAO
	THU	11:59pm	SF 1/8	P14	SAT	4:00 am	SURIGAO
TAGBILARAN	MON	11:59 pm	MEDJU	P14	WED	5:30 am	TAGBI
	FRI	11:59 pm	SCHRT	P14	SUN	7:00 am	TAGBI
ZAMBOANGA	MON	2:00 pm	SF 1/8	P14	TUE	6:00 pm	ZAMBO.
	SAT	10:00 am	SF 2/5/9	P4	SUN	6:00 pm	ZAMBO

From BACOLOD

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	SAT	5:00 am	SF 14	BREDCO	SAT	5:00 pm	PUNTOD
ILIGAN	MON	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	TUE	10:00 am	ILIGAN
OZAMIS	MON	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	TUE	2:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	WED	3:00 pm	SF 14	BREDCO	THU	10:00 am	P4
	SUN	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	BREDCO	MON	11:00 am	P4

From CAGAYAN de ORO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	WED	11:59 am	BREDCO
DUMAGUETE	FRI	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	PUNTOD	SAT	8:00 am	DGTE
ILOILO	SAT	9:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	SUN	9:00 am	LOBOC
MANILA	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	THU	10:00 am	P4
	FRI	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	PUNTOD	SUN	11.00 am	P4
	SAT	9:00 pm	SF 14	PUNTOD	MON	5:00 am	P4

From CEBU

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
NASIPIT	TUE	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	WED	10:30 am	NAS
SURIGAO	TUE	9:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	WED	4:00 am	SUR
MANILA	MON	11:59 am	SF 12	CIP	TUE	9:00 am	P4
	WED	5:00 pm	SF 12	CIP	THU	2:00 pm	P4
	THU	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	CIP	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	FRI	8:00 pm	SF 12	CIP	SAT	8:00 pm	P4
	SUN	9:00 am	SF 1/8	CIP	MON	8:00 am	P14

From CORON

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
P. PRINCESA	SAT	7.00 am	MEDJU	CORON	SAT	8.00 pm	PPS
MANILA	SUN	11:00 pm	MEDJU	CORON	MON	1:00 pm	P14

— schedule may change without prior notice —

From COTABATO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
ILOILO	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	TUE	2:00 pm	LOBOC
ZAMBOANGA	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	MON	8:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	MON	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	POLLOC	WED	1:00 pm	P4

From DAVAO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
GEN. SANTOS	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	TUE	7:00 am	MAKAR
	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILOILO	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	WED	10:00 am	LOBOC
ZAMBOANGA	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	10:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	MON	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	THU	7:00 am	P14
	WED	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SASA	SAT	4:00 am	P14

From DIPOLOG

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
TAGBILARAN	SUN	11:59 pm	SCHRT	DIPOLOG	MON	6:00 am	TAGBI
MANILA	SUN	11:59 pm	SCHRT	DIPOLOG	TUE	5:00 pm	P14

From DUMAGUETE

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	FRI	8:00 am	SF 2/5/9	DGTE	FRI	11:59 am	PUNTOD
TAGBILARAN	WED	4:00 pm	MEDJU	DGTE	WED	7:00 pm	TAGBI
MANILA	WED	4:00 pm	MEDJU	DGTE	FRI	4:00 am	P4
	SAT	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	DGTE	SUN	11:00 am	P4

From DUMAGUIT

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
ROXAS	TUE	11:00 am	LIPA	DUM	TUE	12:30 pm	CULASI
	THU	7:00 am	LIPA	DUM	THU	8:30 am	CULASI
	SUN	7:00 am	LIPA	DUM	SUN	8:30 am	CULASI
MANILA	TUE	7:00 pm	LIPA	DUM	WED	8:00 am	P4
	THU	3:30 pm	LIPA	DUM	FRI	7:00 am	P4
	SUN	3:30 pm	LIPA	DUM	MON	7:00 am	P4

From GEN. SANTOS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DAVAO	MON	9:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	MON	5:00 pm	SASA
	WED	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
ILOILO	TUE	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	WED	10:00 am	LOBOC
ZAMBOANGA	THU	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	THU	10:00 pm	ZAMBO
MANILA	TUE	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	THU	7:00 am	P14
	THU	10:00 am	SF 1/8	MAKAR	SAT	4:00 am	P14

From ILIGAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	SAT	10:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	SUN	11:59 am	BREDCO
OZAMIS	TUE	11:59 am	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	TUE	2:00 pm	OZA
	SAT	11:00 am	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	SAT	1:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	TUE	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	THU	8:00 am	P14
	SAT	10:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ILIGAN	MON	11:00 am	P4

From ILOILO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CAGAYAN	TUE	8:00 am	SF 14	LOBOC	TUE	8:00 pm	PUNTOD
DAVAO	SUN	7:00 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	MON	8:00 pm	SASA
GEN. SANTOS	SUN	7:00 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	MON	7:00 am	MAKAR
ILIGAN	FRI	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	LOBOC	SAT	9:00 am	ILI
OZAMIS	FRI	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	LOBOC	SAT	1:00 pm	OZA
MANILA	SUN	11:00 am	SF 14	LOBOC	MON	8:00 am	P4
	TUE	4:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	LOBOC	WED	1:00 pm	P4
	WED	11:59 am	SF 1/8	LOBOC	THU	7:00 am	P14

From MASBATE

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
PALOMPON	WED	8:00 pm	SCHRT	MASBATE	THU	3:00 am	PALOMPON
MANILA	THU	4:00 pm	SCHRT	MASBATE	FRI	11:00 am	P14

From NASIPIT / BUTUAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CEBU	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	THU	4:00 pm	CIP
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	SUN	8:00 am	CIP
SURIGAO	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	THU	4:30 am	SUR
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	SAT	8:00 pm	SUR
MANILA	WED	11:59 pm	SF 2/5/9	NAS	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	SAT	4:00 pm	SF 1/8	NAS	MON	8:00 am	P14

From OZAMIS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
BACOLOD	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	SUN	11:59 am	BREDCO
ILIGAN	TUE	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	TUE	9:00 pm	ILIGAN
	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	SAT	8:00 pm	ILIGAN
MANILA	TUE	7:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	THU	5:00 am	P14
	SAT	6:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	OZA	MON	11:00 am	P4

From PALOMPON

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
MASBATE	THU	7:00 am	SCHRT	PALOMPON	THU	2:00 pm	MASBATE
MANILA	THU	7:00 am	SCHRT	PALOMPON	FRI	11:00 am	P14

From PUERTO PRINCESA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CORON	SUN	9:00 am	MEDJU	Pps	SUN	10:00 pm	CORON
MANILA	SUN	9:00 am	MEDJU	Pps	MON	1:00 pm	P14

From ROXAS

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DUMAGUIT	TUE	4:00 pm	LIPA	CULASI	TUE	5:30 pm	DUMAGUIT
	THU	12:30 pm	LIPA	CULASI	THU	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
	SUN	12:30 pm	LIPA	CULASI	SUN	2:00 pm	DUMAGUIT
MANILA	TUE	4:00 pm	LIPA	CULASI	WED	9:00 am	P4
	THU	12:30 pm	LIPA	CULASI	FRI	7:00 am	P4
	SUN	12:30 pm	LIPA	CULASI	MON	7:00 am	P4

From SURIGAO

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
CEBU	THU	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	THU	4:00 pm	CIP
	SAT	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SUR	SUN	6:00 am	CIP
NASIPIT	WED	6:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	WED	10:30 am	NAS
	SAT	6:00 am	SF 1/8	SUR	SAT	10:00 am	NAS
MANILA	THU	9:00 am	SF 2/5/9	SUR	FRI	6:00 pm	P4
	SAT	11:00 pm	SF 1/8	SUR	MON	8:00 am	P14

From TAGBILARAN

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
DIPOLOG	SUN	9:00 am	SCHRT	TAGBI	SUN	3:00 pm	DIPOLOG
DUMAGUETE	WED	8:00 am	MEDJU	TAGBI	WED	11:00 am	DGTE
MANILA	MON	10:00 am	SCHRT	TAGBI	TUE	5:00 pm	P14
	WED	11:00 pm	MEDJU	TAGBI	FRI	4:00 am	P4

From ZAMBOANGA

TO	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL		
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER
COTABATO	SUN	8:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	MON	5:00 am	POLLOC
DAVAO	TUE	8:00 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	WED	6:00 pm	SASA
GEN. SANTOS	TUE	8:00 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	WED	8:00 am	MAKAR
ILOILO	MON	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	TUE	3:00 pm	LOBOC
MANILA	MON	11:00 pm	SF 2/5/9	ZAMBO	WED	1:00 pm	P4
	THU	11:59 pm	SF 1/8	ZAMBO	SAT	4:00 am	P14

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BATANGAS SAILING SCHEDULE

ROUTE	DEPARTURE				ARRIVAL			
	DAY	TIME	VESSEL	PIER	DAY	TIME	PIER	EFFECTIVITY DATES
MANILA - BATANGAS	WED	11.59 pm	SF 2/5/9	P4	THU	6:00 am	BTS	APRIL 18, 2001
BACOLOD - BATANGAS	WED	2:00 pm	SF14	BREDCO	THU	4.00 am	BTS	APRIL 18, 2001
CAGAYAN - BATANGAS	TUE	11:00 pm	SF14	PUNTOD	THU	4:00 am	BTS	APRIL 17, 2001
	FRI	11.59 pm	SF2/5/9	PUNTOD	SUN	4:00 am	BTS	APRIL 20, 2001
DUMAGUETE - BATANGAS	SAT	9:00 am	SF2/5/9	DGTE	SUN	6:00 am	BTS	APRIL 21, 2001
BATANGAS - DUMAGUETE	THU	8:00 am	SF 2/5/9	BTS	FRI	5:00 am	DGTE	APRIL 19, 2001
BATANGAS - CAGAYAN	THU	8:00 am	SF 2/5/9	BTS	FRI	1.00 pm	PUNTOD	APRIL 19, 2001
BATANGAS - MANILA	THU	6.00 am	SF 14	BTS	THU	11.59 am	P4	APRIL 19, 2001
	SUN	8:00 am	SF 2/5/9	BTS	SUN	2:00 pm	P4	APRIL 22, 2001

IMPORTANT

Please take note of the changes in the departure and arrival times of the ports starting on the dates shown below:

EFFECTIVITY DATES	ROUTE	DAY	DEPARTURE	DAY	ARRIVAL
April 2, 2001	MANILA - DUMAGUIT	MON	6:00 pm	TUE	9:30 am
April 17, 2001	CAGAYAN - MANILA	TUE	11:00 pm	THU	11:59 am
April 18, 2001	MANILA - CAGAYAN	WED	11:59 pm	FRI	1:00 pm
	MANILA - DUMAGUETE	WED	11:59 pm	FRI	5:00 am
	BACOLOD - MANILA	WED	2:00 pm	THU	11:59 am
April 21, 2001	DUMAGUETE - MANILA	SAT	9:00 am	SUN	2:00 pm
April 20, 2001	CAGAYAN - MANILA	FRI	11:59 pm	SUN	2:00 pm

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Lacson in deep trouble

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NO matter how much he denies it, the noose is tightening around the neck of former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson in the disappearance of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

Two farmers, Alex Diloy and Jimmy Lopez of Indang, Cavite, have told investigators they saw how Bubby Dacer and Corbito die. They said the publicist and his driver were strangled and burned afterwards by men belonging to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) on the night of Nov. 24, 2001. That was the same day they were abducted in Manila.

Lacson was concurrent head of the PAOCTF, a superbody whose notoriety has surfaced after its creator, President Erap, was deposed in a civilian-military revolt.

* * *

Lacson of course denies that he had anything to do with the grisly murder. He even said that the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), which cracked the case, was bent on linking the PAOCTF to Dacer's disappearance.

The former PNP chief said he had received reports that the two farmers, now under NBI custody, were tortured into confessing.

There have been reports that crime suspects were tortured by the MISG and PAOCTF to make them confess.

* * *

Now, let's tackle the question of why Lacson is being implicated in Dacer's disappearance and— as things now unfold—his murder.

The question why Lacson is being linked to the Dacer case is wrong. The question should be why shouldn't he be implicated?

The two farmers were positive the guys who abducted and murdered Dacer and Corbito were PAOCTF agents. They allegedly were under orders from police Supt. Teofilo Vina of PAOCTF-Visayas.

Now, why would Vina want to kill Dacer and his driver? He didn't have any possible motive. If Dacer was a newspaper reporter or columnist, Vina could have a possible motive. He could have been hurt by Dacer's reports about his supposed illegal activities at PAOCTF. But Dacer was neither a reporter nor columnist. Bubby Dacer was a topnotch PR man who defended or demolished government officials by lobbying with newspaper editors or columnists.

* * *

The PAOCTF under Lacson was a closely knit organization. Nothing ever happened within that group, no matter how minor, that didn't reach Lacson. Lacson himself handpicked every officer and enlisted policeman. Every one of them obeyed him blindly. Nobody moved without his orders.

So, Vina couldn't have ordered the killing of Dacer on his own. The order came from upstairs. But, of course, this is saying that the farmers were telling the truth.

Lacson would not admit this but he's now in deep s—t. Not only is he in danger of not being elected senator, the latest survey showed he was no longer included in the "Magic 13." And now this report. Lacson might even go to prison.

* * *

I remember then lst Lt. Panfilo Lacson of the MISG's police intelligence branch telling me there was no such thing as a "perfect crime." This was in 1977 when I covered the attempted assassination of Makati Mayor Nemesio Yabut. Lacson's group cracked the case.

"Mon, the criminals will always commit a mistake," Lacson said. "The mistake could be minor but the police could make this a lead in solving the crime."

It seems that statement now applies to him.

* * *

Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, will bow out of the service soon, many months before his retirement date.

Calimlim will claim his reward from the Macapagal administration for being at Edsa during the critical moments leading to the fall of President Erap.

But does he really deserve the reward?

* * *

I have it on good authority that Calimlim, hours before he went to Edsa, called up Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, now Southcom chief, and Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, commander of the Army's 7th Division.

What did Calimlim call the two generals for? To ask them not to follow Gen. Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces chief of staff, who was about to join People Power II at Edsa. Calimlim was calling from Malacañang, my sources said.

The two generals gave Calimlim the same reply: "*Susunod kami kay* Sir Angie (Reyes' nickname—RT)."

* * *

Calimlim will get back his anti-smuggling post. During the Erap administration, he was head of the defunct Task Force Aduana which went after smugglers.

What's in that anti-smuggling post that Calimlim would leave the military for?

* * *

The present customs district port collector of San Fernando, La Union, is fighting tooth and nail to remain in his position.

As a backgrounder, during the time of President Erap, this customs official was able to get the post when he was only a customs examiner.

Now, using his new connection with the new administration, he was allegedly able to get himself promoted to Customs Collector II, a big jump from his old rank.

But the position of district collector is only assigned to officials with the rank of Customs Collector III, IV and V.

Again, what's in the Port of San Fernando, La Union that its present head, underqualified, would fight tooth and nail for?

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Women Broadcasters Expose the Truth

Tin-Tin
Cristina
Bernadette

Bersola, Peczon and Sembrano let their hair down in a rare moment together

Tin-Tin watches raw takes with: (L-R) Marketing Manager Vicky Ofalsa and Brand Manager Cindy Añonuevo of Splash Manufacturing Corporation.

Tin-Tin Bersola. Cristina Peczon. Bernadette Sembrano. Three women broadcasters with similar backgrounds and different personalities, styles and perspectives. Their one common denominator: excellence and perfection on and off the camera. And now, for the first time, they finally come together to air their stories and experiences with much candor.

Tin-Tin prepares for her daily early morning show. With no space for complacency, she has to cope with more demands: fast , accurate news delivered without looking too serious and without compromising the fully made-up face seen on cam everyday. Looking her best –looking fresh always – really matters to her. She even confesses, "*Gusto ko lagi akong mukhang bata..*"

Seasoned TV broadcast journalist Cristina Peczon never faces the camera half-prepared. She reviews her scripts and meticulously goes over stories from show to show. Naturally, her skin gets stressed and the camera shows it.

" *Yung sinasabi nila na nadadaya 'yon sa camera, hindi totoo....Kahit ibahin nila ang anggulo, ayusin ang ilaw...kita pa rin yon*", Cristina quips.

Fellow broadcast journalist Bernadette prioritizes deadlines. Stories for immediate airing get her full, undivided attention. No unnecessary distractions. No luxury of time spent on worrying about the way she looks.

Contract signing with Splash Marketing Manager Vicky Ofalsa.

A sneak preview with photographer John Chua.

She keeps a no - nonsense, uncomplicated daily skin care regimen.

Women like them never compromise in anything, specially when it comes to caring for their one and only skin.

"*Siyempre, 'di ka maglalagay ng kung anu-ano sa mukha mo. You always need the best* ", Cristina maintains. Bernadette and Tin-Tin agree. And for them, exfoliation or skin peeling with Extraderm Plus is the rule. The results are just astounding.

" *Pagkatapos kong mag-peel sa Extraderm,*" shares Cristina, "*tinext nga ako ng mga tao. Akala nila in-love ako. Blooming daw ang skin ko.*"

Tin-Tin claims that Extraderm peels away old skin and even does something more to always-fully-made-up skin. " *Yung pores na parang hindi makahinga, suddenly nakakahinga!* ", she relates.

Bernadette adds that with Extraderm her looks are the least of her concerns.. No wonder, women broadcasters and millions of other women chose only the leading exfoliant for their skin: Extraderm Plus. As Tin-Tin says, "*Kanino ko ba ipagkakatiwala ang mukha ko? 'Di ba sa No. 1?*"

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Guard killed in Caltex rob

By Philip C. Tubeza

MOTORIST Diosdado D. Advincula did not know he was driving right in the middle of a robbery when he pulled up at a Caltex gas station in Fairview, Quezon City Thursday night.

He only realized the trouble he was in when bullets started flying and one of them grazed his left eye.

But Advincula was luckier than security guard Richmond M. Paleracio.

Paleracio, 28, of Diego Silang Street, Project 4, Quezon City, died on the spot after 10 unidentified robbers riddled his body with bullets when he tried to resist, said investigator PO2 Joseph Dino.

Police said the suspects, on board a navy blue Isuzu Hi-Lander (TVT-939), arrived at the Caltex station on Regalado Avenue, Barangay Sta. Monica, Fairvew, Quezon City, at about 10 p.m. Thursday.

The robbers, all armed with handguns, quickly got off the Hi-Lander and announced the holdup, Dino said.

"Some of the suspects shouted to all Caltex personnel to lie down on the ground, while others proceeded to the cashier to get the cash," he added.

But as the armed suspects were about to leave with the loot, Paleracio allegedly tried to block their way.

The robbers' reaction was swift and fatal, Dino said. Before the security guard could fire his 12-guage shotgun, the suspects opened fire, killing him instantly.

The suspects then took the shotgun from the dead guard's hands and continued to ransack the cash register, Dino said.

But just as the Caltex employees believed they had heard the last shot fired, Advincula drove up the gas station on board his own Isuzu Hi-Lander (WNY-886) not knowing a robbery was in progress, Dino said.

When the robbers saw that Advincula was about to drive up, they trained their guns at his vehicle and opened fire.

Luckily, they missed Advincula and only grazed his left eye.

The suspects then made a quick getaway with a still undetermined amount of cash, Dino added.

Advincula was taken to the Far Eastern University hospital in Fairview and was later discharged after doctors treated his wound, Dino said.

"The loot could not be that much because gas stations usually don't leave large amounts of cash in their registers at night," he said.

Passenger shot dead in jeepney holdup

By Agnes E. Donato

A PASSENGER who tried to grab the gun of one of four holdup men on board a jeepney ended up dead in Mandaluyong City early yesterday morning.

Police failed to find any identification papers on the passenger who was killed, according to Insp. Efren Jugo, Mandaluyong Criminal Investigation Division chief.

Jugo described the victim as 5-foot-5, fair complexioned and with a scar on the left forearm.

Marcelino Libron, 41, an employee of Candy Maker Inc. and a resident of Binondo, Manila, was grazed in the left ear by a stray bullet, Jugo said.

PO2 Ruperto Sazon said the robbery occurred on board a Pasig-Quiapo passenger jeepney. The four unidentified men announced the holdup when the jeepney reached the Barangay Wack-Wack portion of Shaw Boulevard shortly before 6 a.m. and proceeded to take the valuables of the passengers.

But when the holdup men were about to get off the jeepney, the unidentified passenger attempted to grab the .45 caliber pistol of one of them, who shot the passenger.

The two passengers who were hit were brought to the Rizal Medical Center, where doctors pronounced the unidentified one dead on arrival.

Police are preparing cartographic sketches of the suspects. *Agnes E. Donato*

Boy in wrong place at wrong time slain

IT WAS a case of being at the wrong place at the wrong time.

A man identified only as Don-Don was arguing with his wife when he suddenly stabbed a 16-year-old boy who was standing outside the couple's house in Sitio 6, Barangay Catmon, Malabon, on Thursday night.

Ryan Regala of Dulong Hernandez Street, Malabon, died from at least four deep stab wounds in the right armpit, chest, and back, said case investigator PO2 Redentor Mantala Jr.

Initial investigation by the Malabon Police Investigation Bureau showed that Regala was talking with his friend Christopher Bacat outside Don-Don's house when Don-Don attacked him for no apparent reason.

Don-Don was confronting his wife outside the house, police said. Minutes later, he went inside his house.

He came out again, this time carrying a knife, and repeatedly stabbed Regala, who had paid no attention to the couple's argument, police said.

Police are looking for Don-Don.

Go after . . .

(From page A25)

"I'm not satisfied with the police investigation," businessman Welson Chua said yesterday. "I don't know where they are going. They're not giving me any updates.

Welson said the Western Police District's Homicide Division has been pursuing the "wrong" angle-that his son's murder was "drug-related."

"The ROTC angle is the most obvious," Chua said. "Everybody knows that, but how come the police are not doing anything about it?"

Also, police did not explain to Chua how his son was connected to drugs.

The Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group is set to step into the case, he said.

His son Mark's decomposing body surfaced in the Pasig River on March 18. The body was wrapped in a carpet. Mark's head was completely covered with packing tape and his limbs were bound with shoelaces.

Weeks before he was killed, Chua and his friends in the ROTC pointed to Tejares and Binagatan as being involved in the allegedly widespread corruption and extortion at the UST ROTC.

The military officers were reportedly dismissed from the ROTC because of Chua's expos,.

Chua said police should find out the whereabouts of Tejares and Binagatan, who were believed to have gone into hiding after Mark's murder.

Investigators should also look into the status of the soldiers with the Army Reserve Command, whether or not they have been dismissed from the military or are still being investigated over the ROTC expos,, Chua said.

"I want to know what happened to Tejares and Binagatan after my son's heroic expos,," Chua said. "Was there a whitewash? Is there an ongoing investigation?"

In an earlier interview, he said investigators had told him to be "extra careful" since those who had murdered his son could also be plotting to kill him.

"They said the killers would normally go after the person who is digging into the case and that's me," he said.

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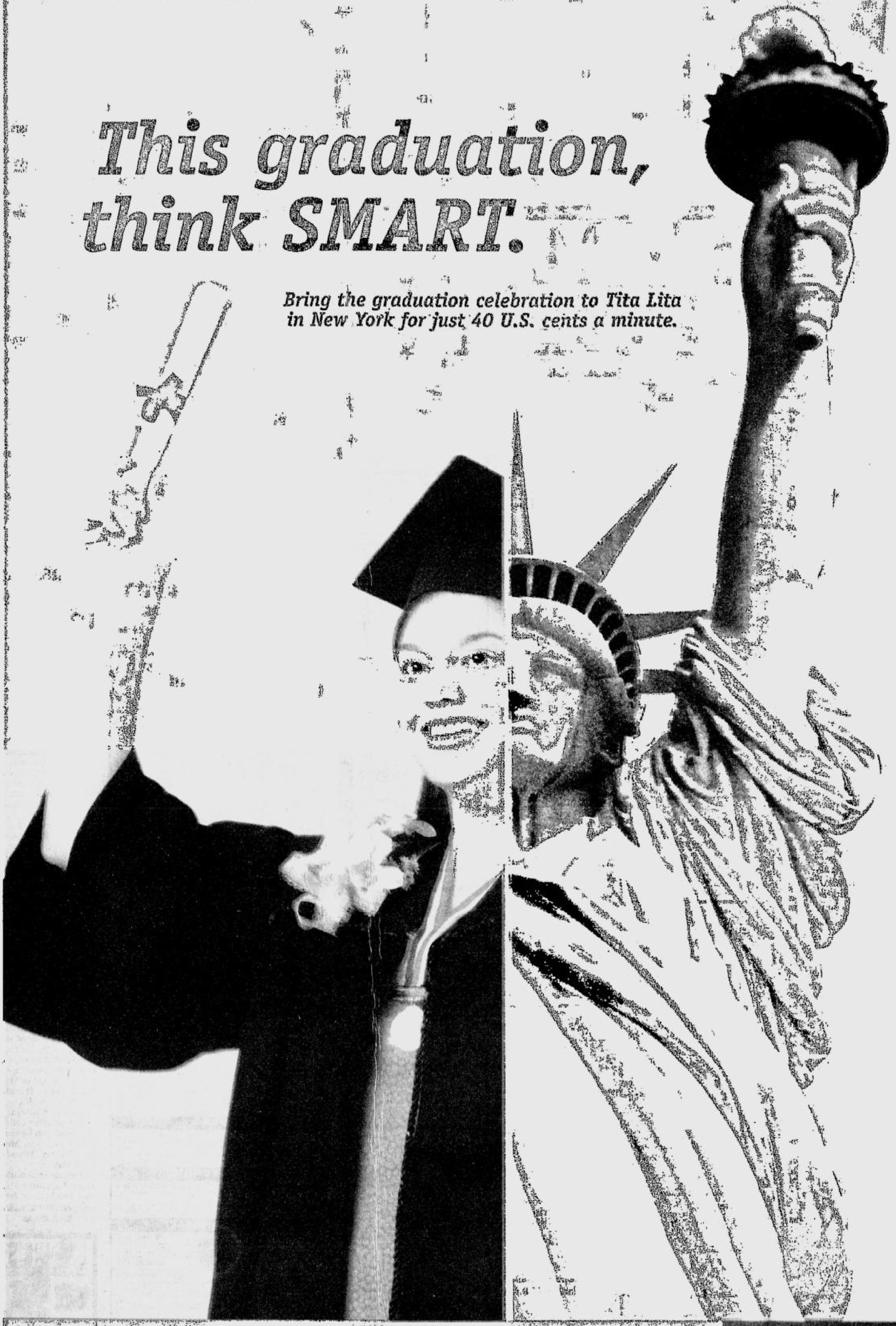

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ECC rules on pay claim

A WORKER performing dual purposes—one official and the other private—who sustained an injury in the process shall be entitled to employees' compensation benefits, according to the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC).

The ECC said the dual-purpose rule was upheld in the case of Marlina Alo vs GSIS.

According to case records, Alo is a social welfare officer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) who sustained injuries after being bumped by a passenger jeepney while she was on her way home.

Alo, who was assigned to the town of Opol in Misamis Oriental, was part of a medical team that was bound for Cagayan de Oro City on May 22, 1994 to conduct a medical mission. The team was on board an official vehicle.

After the medical mission, Alo decided to remain in Cagayan de Oro to attend to some personal business. As she was about to board a passenger jeepney on her way home, she was accidentally bumped by another jeepney. Her right femur was fractured.

The ECC board of commissioners took cognizance of the dual purpose of her trip and ruled in her favor. The board explained that an accident that occurs while an employee is on a trip performing both business and personal tasks shall be deemed as within the course of employment.

e-Pass tag now costs P2,700

CITRA Metro Manila Tollways Corp. has announced that effective immediately, the subscription cost of the e-Pass tag will be P2,700, including P500 in prepaid tolls and VAT.

Citra officials said the initial supply of 35,000 e-Pass tags at the subsidized subscription cost of P1,600 had run out.

They said the cost of the P2,700 e-Pass already reflected a 33-percent discount from the regular price of P3,800.

Motorists can pay cash at 16 participating Shell stations. At the e-Pass Customer Service Center, they can pay cash or through credit card. Accepted credit cards are Visa, MasterCard, JCB or Diners Club, which is offering an installment plan.

For inquiries, please call 776-76-76 and 776-3909.

Australian visa hours

THE Australian Embassy's Visa and Immigration Section announced that until April 16, 2001, the counter hours for filing of visa applications are 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday.

For passport collection, the counter hours are from 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Further information about Australian visas may be obtained from www.australia.com.ph or www.immi.gov.au.

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SM CITY BA[illegible]

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK

[illegible]

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
3	DTS	WEDDING PLANNER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	QUILLS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT

[illegible]

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
11	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000

SM CITY MANILA [illegible]

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
7	DOLBY SURROUND	ERIN BROCKOVICH
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	QUILLS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
12	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR [illegible]

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM MEGAMALL [illegible]

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	DTS	THEY NEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CHOCOLAT
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH [illegible]

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE GIFT
7	DTS	THEY NEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BAIT
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO
12	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

SM SOUTHMALL [illegible]

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CLOSED
9	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	TOTAL AIKIDO

TUTUBAN CENTER [illegible]

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK

SM CEBU [illegible]

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	QUILLS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
4	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

SM ILOILO

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	QUILLS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED

SM PAMPANGA

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE GIFT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BAIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BABAENG PUTIK
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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[illegible]
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 THE GIFT
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG ...
4 BAIT

[illegible]
1 MS. CONGENIALITY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 BAIT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE GIFT THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film
5 QUILLS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 WEDDING PLANNER in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 CHOCOLAT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

[illegible]
1 CHOCOLAT in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 THE GIFT in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MARCH 30, 31 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage

[illegible]
1 THE GIFT THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 WEDDING PLANNER in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BAIT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CHOCOLAT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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2 (SDDS) THEY NEST
3 (DTS) HIGH FIDELITY
4 (GOLD DTS) THE BAIT
5 (GOLD DOLBY) THE GIFT
6 (GOLD SDDS) CHOCOLAT
7 (GOLD DOLBY) WEDDING PLANNER
8 (PMG) BABAENG PUTIK
9 (PMG) OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10 (PMG) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 UHAW SA INIT
2 TOTAL AIKIDO
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

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1 (DOLBY) TOTAL AIKIDO
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3 UHAW SA INIT

Masagana CINEMA
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2 UHAW SA INIT
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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2 BABAENG PUITK
3 UHAW SA INIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THEY NEST
5 TOTAL AIKIDO

Metropolis
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1 TOTAL AIKIDO
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 RESERVE
4 UHAW SA INIT
5 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6 THEY NEST
7 ALWAYS A COPS
8 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
1 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR P30 00
2 PERFECT STORM
3 TURN ON
4 ALIPIN NG TUKSO
5 –
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
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2 OOOPS. TEKA LANG

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 THE GIFT

Spring
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1 TOTAL AIKIDO
A UHAW SA INIT

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 RESERVE
3 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568
1 (DOLBY) THEY NEST
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 QUILLS
4 THE GIFT
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
6 BABAENG PUTIK
7 (DTS) BAIT
8 (SDDS) TOTAL AIKIDO
9 (DOLBY) SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5 BABAENG PUITK
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS) THEY NEST
5 UHAW SA INIT
6 (DOLBY) TOTAL AIKIDO
7 (DTS) DRACULA 2000
8 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9 RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2 RESERVED
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 UHAW SA INIT
5 (SDDS) TOTAL AIKIDO
6 BABAENG PUTIK
7 (DOLBY) THEY NEST
8 OOPS TEKA LANG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 TOTAL AIKIDO
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 (DTS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 BABAENG PUTIK
5 (SDDS) UHAW SA INIT
6 (DOLBY) TOTAL AIKIDO
7 (DOLBY) THEY NEST

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BABAENG PUTIK

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7884
1 BABAENG PUTIK

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson BABAENG PUTIK
Lords UHAW SA INIT
Jeanet WILD SIDE

MARKET! MARKET! Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 UHAW SA INIT
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 TOTAL AIKIDO
4 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 BABAENG PUTIK

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 THEY NEST
2 TOTAL AIKIDO
3 UHAW SA INIT
4 BABAENG PUTIK
5 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 BABAENG PUTIK
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 TOTAL AIKIDO
4 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
5 KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6 OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 BABAENG PUTIK
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 (DTS) THE BAIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 WEDDING PLANNER
2 (DTS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 (DOLBY) THE BAIT
4 SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 BABAENG PUTIK
4 (DTS) TOTAL AIKIDO

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) WEDDING PLANNER
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 (DTS) THE BAIT
4 SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5 OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8083
1 WEDDING PLANNER
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 SAVE THE LAST DANCE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 SAVE THE LAST DANCE
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OBJECT OF [illegible] ON

Olivarez T[illegible]tay
tel (046) [illegible]
1 RED PLANET
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 OBJECT OF OBSSESION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 BAIT
2 SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3 WAY OF THE GUN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 OOPS TEKA LANG
2 BABAENG PUTIK
3 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
4 UHAW SA INIT

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL. (049) 5314808
1 (DTS) BAIT
2 (DTS) SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 OOPS TEKA LANG

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 PANABLA
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 TOO MUCH FLESH

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TOO MUCH FLESH
2 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3 WOMAN ON TOP
4 MS. CONGENIALITY

Berma
tel 879.2168
1 UHAW SA INIT
2 TOTAL AIKIDO

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 UHAW SA INIT
3 BABAENG PUTIK
4 TOTAL AIKIDO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY DIGITAL) PURPLE STORM
2 SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
3 BAIT
4 (DTS DIGITAL) THE GIFT

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④ BABAENG PUTIK
⑤ THE WEDDING PLANNER
⑥ SAVE THE LAST DANCE
⑦ THE GIFT

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⑤ TOTAL AIKIDO
⑥ SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453
① MS. CONGENIALITY
② ALMOST FAMOUS
③ OOOPS, TEKA LANG
④ HANNIBAL
⑤ CHOCOLAT
⑥ THE CONTENDER

DOLBY dts SDDS

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ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911 3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BABAENG PUTIK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OOPS TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE GIFT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	TOTAL AIKIDO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	UHAW SA INIT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	UHAW SA INIT
MIRAMAR	IKAPITONG GLORIA/KAMASUTRA-2
ODEON	UHAW SA INIT
ODEON-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
ROBEN	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA - 7 GLORYA
TIMES	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP / HOT SPOT
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
QUEZON-1	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR	UHAW SA INIT
REMAR-2	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BAIT
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
CINEMA-2	BABAENG PUTIK
CINEMA-3	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	QUILLS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAIT
CINEMA-6	PANABLA
CINEMA-7	UHAW SA INIT
CINEMA-8	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THEY NEST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE GIFT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-12	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-14	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-15	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	PROOF OF LIFE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-2	CHOCOLAT
CINEMA-3	CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON
CINEMA-4	THE GIFT
CINEMA-5	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-6	SAVE THE LAST DANCE

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.

Erap prosecutor believes in fair play

BY NINI VALERA

THE SPEAKER of the house walks into his Quezon City home late on a Friday night as a man with a purpose. That Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" D. Belmonte Jr. has a purpose is palpable in his plans if he were to become mayor of Quezon City, where he has lived for almost half of his life since he married in 1959 the late newspaper publisher Betty Go-Belmonte.

Surrounded by dozens of Ang Kiu Kok paintings and seated at the same round dining table that he shared with Betty for 35 years until she died of cancer in 1994, Belmonte, 64, talks for more than two hours about his goals in local politics, his doubts, his life, and how he now lives it without Betty.

"What I'm really trying to achieve is good governance in Quezon City," he says. "It means more than just getting rid of red tape, fixers at City Hall. Of course, these are all included."

His good governance would also include transparency in doing things and "holding people responsible for their decisions." In short, good governance Belmonte style is making sure that everybody gets a fair shake.

To bring about meaningful changes in Quezon City politics, Belmonte is banking on his experience in government service—in an elective post and several appointive ones—which spans more than three decades under five Philippine presidents. These included management of sequestered companies Philippine Airlines (PAL) and Manila Hotel, and being at the helm of the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS).

"In my sign (campaign logo) is KSB—*karanasan ni* Sonny Belmonte," he points out. "If there are going to be mistakes committed, at least, I made mine already but not at the expense of Quezon City."

Prosecution role

A former newspaper police reporter and a lawyer by profession, Belmonte was the manager of the prosecution panel in the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada. Ironically, Belmonte did not even mention in the interview his participation in what could perhaps be his most high-profile case as prosecutor.

But what he considers as a high point in his career was when he managed PAL, which he says was a special challenge that he took on from 1991 to 1992.

"Without firing anybody, without incurring any extraordinary debt, I was able to really move that airline from a very defeated mood to a can-do mood," he relates as if he personally pushed the 747s for take-off. "Eventually, we ended with the highest-ever profit PAL ever had in its history, which was only about P1.2 billion. But until now, it is the highest profits in PAL's 65 years and that was registered when a guy like me took over (the airline).

Ironically, he claims that he may not be the best person for the job of mayor of Quezon City. "But I am the best available for the job," he notes.

If experience were indeed the decisive factor in the city's mayoral race, Belmonte would win hands down against movie actor Rudy Fernandez, even if Belmonte admits to being faulted for being abrupt, which he says is "not a good quality for a politician."

"It's amazing, *ha*," Belmonte says. "For some people, the only issue (when deciding whom to vote into office) is if the candidate is approachable. Can they talk to me? Yes, they can talk to me. And yes, I'm approachable. I would be accessible to people if I became mayor."

Consultative

He says his governing style would be consultative and he would get as many views as possible. He would involve the people in the planning of the city's projects through the city development council, which would include marginalized groups like the urban poor, and non-government organizations.

Experience taught Belmonte that being mayor would be a tough job. Statistics show that the city he hopes to govern has a huge social problem as much as an economic one. To this day, Belmonte observes, Quezon City still has to have its own Ayala Center or Ortigas Center so it could come out of its long slumber as the bedroom of people who work in other places, like Makati.

Experience, too, shaped him into a "fellow who wants to see things done, who is not unreasonable, who believes in fair play."

As a leader, he describes himself to be a manager who could look at the small picture and see the big one, a trait of most successful corporate executives.

In his political life, Belmonte is proudest of the time he was elected Speaker by his own colleagues, who include Joker Arroyo, "a man who has seen power," Butz Aquino, and the first-term, young congressmen, which mostly make up the Spice Boys.

"Why did it happen (that I was elected Speaker)? I think my own colleagues saw a certain fair-mindedness in me. There were only 39 of us. I was really touched when one of them said that under me, he felt he belonged."

BELMONTE

Garbage crisis

And what would he like to accomplish, if he were elected, on his first term as Quezon City mayor?

"I hope to be able to resolve the most obvious thing which is the garbage business. I would also like to redirect Quezon City toward better fiscal management of the use of money and the improvement of the delivery of basic services. I think these are the two most important functions of any local unit.

"I would also like to computerize all the activities that are repetitive and that concern the public, such as tax assessment, so you don't have to talk to fixers anymore."

His ultimate goal, Belmonte says, is to make Quezon City function as a city government and not so much a political machine. "I guess I would achieve some measure of that in three years."

Belmonte would look to technology to solve the garbage problem, even if he thinks that Payatas, "if handled right, would still be good (as a dump) for a couple of years." But getting the public to participate in solving the garbage problem, Belmonte says, is central to the solution.

Two terms

With more than 50 percent of the city's 2.3 million-plus population made up of squatters or informal dwellers, Belmonte sees the problem as "both a local and national concern…(so that) both the city and national governments should be involved in solving the squatter problem." But he doesn't believe in simply removing the squatters and wants to provide them with an alternative decent housing.

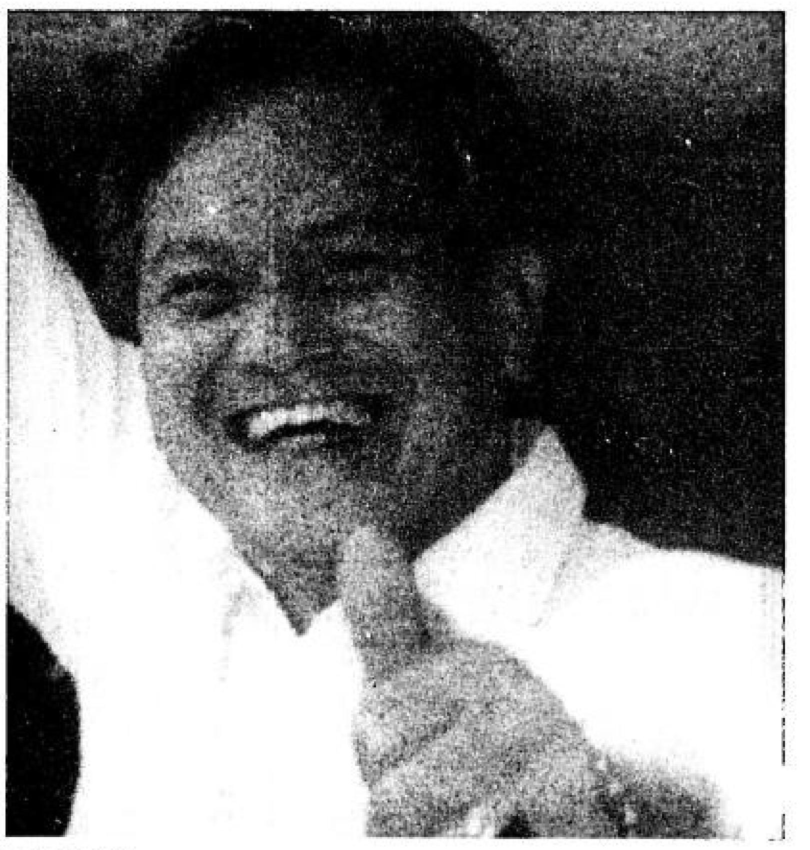
He admits he cannot totally eradicate corruption in local government. But he wants to talk to the Commission on Audit to look into its bidding process and its estimate of prices of equipment to be procured and the cost of projects, which he thinks could be bloated.

All this he desires to accomplish within two terms as mayor because, he says, he is only looking at two terms. "I think a good number of years (as Quezon City mayor) is six. Even a president has only six years."

After two terms as mayor, Belmonte, who would by then be 70, might just find it in himself to slow down, sit quietly at the round table where he and Betty used to eat, talk, and pray, and re-live his life with her.

"I miss her, that's why I'm still a widower and don't even have a girlfriend," he says.

Or, he might do little else but admire his Ang Kiu Koks and his gold coin collection, until the next challenge comes along.



BATACAN

ESMY BATACAN

'Legislation is my turf'

BY AGNES E. DONATO

LAWYER Esmeraldo "Esmy" Batacan claims he has been a victim of "*dagdag-bawas*" or vote-shaving three times, but that is not enough to make him give up politics. He's running again in the May 14 elections, hoping to represent Pasig City at the House of Representatives.

Batacan, 48, says he actually considered giving up his political ambitions for good, but People Power II encouraged him to persist. It also brought hope, he says, to aspirants like him who don't have as big a political machinery as the traditional politicians.

"I believe there is so much I can give the people of Pasig," says Batacan, a law professor at San Beda, where he also graduated, and at the Eulogio Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST). "But I would never go as far as spend what my wife and I have worked very hard for just to win this election. I would rather lose than do that. What matters anyway is that I have made known my advocacy."

What kind of politics is promised by this member of the Philippine Constitution Association and former deputy secretary general of the League of Provincial Governors?

"A politics based on issues, performance and competence," he says. "It is high time that we picked our candidates based on their track records."

The head of the legal and paralegal aid department of the Herrera Batacan Maramba Canto Santos Abuan Zaragosa and Associates law office grew up "in a highly politicized atmosphere." His father is a former Laguna town mayor and his mother is a cousin of former Sen. Arturo Tolentino.

Two years in jail

As a student, Batacan was active in school politics, running for positions in the student body during his elementary and high school days.

When martial law was declared, he was taking up political science at the Far Eastern University, where, as expected, he was a student activist and campus leader.

"I earned the government's ire because I was very vocal about my anti-dictatorship stance," he says. "Soon enough, I got arrested and was jailed for two years."

He recalls being tortured, not fed for days and even being made to sit on a block of ice for hours. "But never did I squeal on my comrades. The only names I gave were those who were already in the hands of the military."

The former political detainee is the founding chair of the People's Coalition for Good Governance and a board member of the Foundation of Local Autonomy and Good Governance.

He used to serve as supervising presidential staff officer of the Presidential Management Staff, and was also a member of various presidential task forces under the Ramos administration.

Mass housing

He maintains that "legislation is my turf," citing his participation in the framing of the implementing rules and regulations of the Local Government Code of 1991.

For the urban poor of Pasig City, he hopes to provide mass housing and skills that can help them get decent jobs. He also envisions free medical assistance and education.

He vows to always consult with the people so that he may know their needs and sentiments. He will also try to establish good relations with whoever wins the mayoral race in Pasig, regardless of his or her political affiliation, so that they can coordinate in implementing their projects.

Clearly, all Batacan can boast for now is his background and visions. Pasig City, after all, has yet to experience his leadership.

"But this much I can promise the people," he says. "I would not be the kind of politician that they must have gotten so used to. I would be not only very approachable when the people need me, I would also be available."

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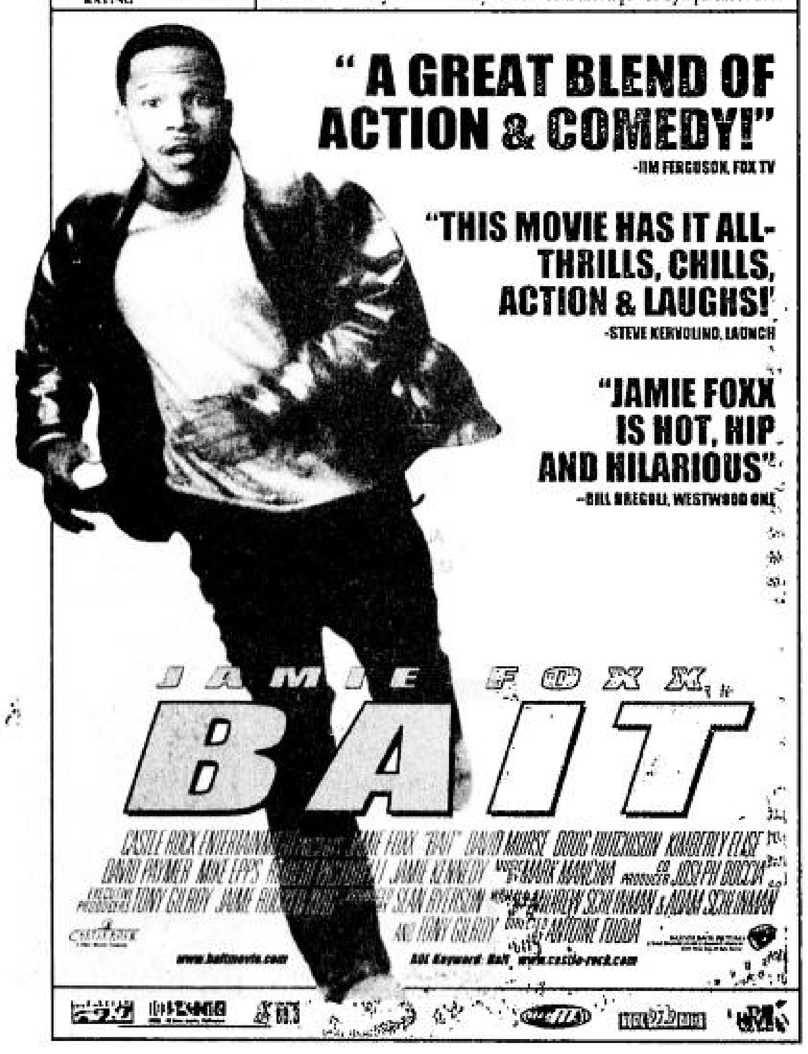
THE GIFT - P 13 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	SAVE THE LAST DANCE - P 13 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20



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LATE NIGHT SCREENING SCHEDULES
FOR
MARCH 31 (Saturday), 2001

SAVE THE LAST DANCE
(MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13)

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
11:20 AM / 1:40 PM / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:45 / ***11:15***

GLORIETTA 1 (QUAD)
10:40 AM / 1:00 PM / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00 / ***10:20***

GLORIETTA 4
12:20 PM / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40 / ***12:00 MN***

GREENBELT
11:30 AM / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50 / ***11:10***

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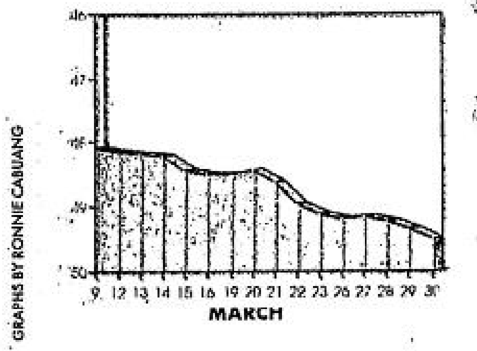
BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱49.51 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
March 30, 2001

¥125.26 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 125.26 as of 5 p.m., March 30, 2001

GOLD:$259.00/259.50 per ounce Hong Kong, March 30, 2001

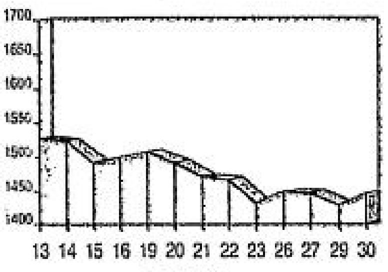
STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher

SHARES finished higher yesterday, buoyed by expected window-dressing with the end of the first quarter of the year, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended near its 1,450-point resistance with a 16.24-point, or 1.1 percent, gain to 1,446.40, after a 1.5-percent loss Thursday.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Gainers led decliners 47 to 27, while 38 issues were unchanged.

"We saw end-of-quarter window dressing," said Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

Roxas added that given the lack of fresh negative developments in the domestic scene, investors opted to accumulate oversold stocks.

"The market's concerns both on the political and economic fronts are slowly dissipating," he said.

The coming sessions, however, may see thinner volume of trades given that the long Lent holiday is just a week away. *AP*

Gov't to float $500-M bonds

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MACAPAGAL administration is set to issue $500 million worth of bonds in the foreign markets in the second half of the year to help bridge a P145-billion budget deficit this year.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday said foreign investors were already convinced that the Philippines could start tapping foreign funds now given a returning confidence in the country and the new government.

"Investors were impressed with the rapid pace of economic and political reforms being implemented by the (Macapagal) administration and that they were convinced the Philippines will join the list of Asia's fastest growing economies this year," Romulo said following a speaking engagement at the Asian Investors' Conference in Hong Kong early this week.

The finance official said that aside from the bond float, the new government was also discussing plans to issue new Brady bonds in exchange for existing Brady bonds and a proposed securitization of future earnings in companies such as Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Romulo said the government might issue "not more than $500 million" in bonds in the second half.

"I don't think we are going to need it for the year but we have to be prepared just in case," said the finance chief who admitted the government has to borrow about P180 billion this year.

While the national government borrowings are concentrated on the domestic market, Romulo said foreign creditors were telling him it was time for the Philippines to tap foreign funds.

"While they say it is time, we would like to leave the doors open and wait for better spreads," the finance chief said.

Investment houses including Credit Suisse First Boston, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, and Lehman Brothers believed the Philippines now boasts a good credit risk among emerging markets.

Romulo admitted that foreign investors and creditors still voiced concerns on the upcoming elections in May and the possibility that former President Estrada would regain power.

Another point of contention is the government's fiscal problem and how it will be addressed. Romulo said the new administration would stick to its target of containing the budget gap to P145 billion this year.

The finance chief, during his speech in Hong Kong delivered on behalf of President Macapagal, stressed on reforms in government to weed out corruption, enhance revenue collection, and prioritize expenditures related to human and strategic infrastructure investments.

Romulo vowed to achieve a balanced budget not later than 2006 but possibly as early as 2004. Economic growth this year would hit a target of 3.8 to 4.3 percent, he stressed.

Among the legislative reforms he had pledged to pursue were the power sector bill, amendments to the Bangko Sentral Act, and modernization of the government's procurement system.

NFA to be transformed into profit-driven trading body

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE NATIONAL Food Authority is gearing to become a more aggressive, profit-driven trading body that will serve to check and balance the rice trading business in a post-liberalized setting.

NFA Administrator Anthony Abad said he would pursue a top-down review of NFA's operations with an eye on creating a more commercially viable trading body that would be distinct from its regulatory functions.

"We would like to be a state trading agency for rice in the line of PITC (Philippine International Trade Corp.) when the country's tariffs are liberalized by 2004 and the government must now compete with private players," Abad said.

He said he was keen on creating a hybrid agency which can still fulfill its role of ensuring food security while at the same time remaining profitable.

Abad said the NFA was prepared to shed its monopoly of the rice trading business which was the main reason for the abuses made at the agency during past administrations. "We believe NFA can remain relevant even in a post-Afta (Asean Free Trade Area) scenario," Abad said.

"NFA's monopoly makes it prone to abuses and we can only check these abuses if the agency loses its monopoly status," he explained.

He said he has formed a special body to look into all major contracts made during the past administration to determine how certain groups close to Malacañang cornered the bulk of these juicy deals. "These deals could reach billions but we still have to put a number on these."

The National Economic and Development Authority is currently reviewing the operations of state trading agencies particularly the NFA which businessmen claimed have distorted the market for rice and sugar.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the move was part of the Macapagal administration's strategy of rationalizing the regulatory role of the government in economic affairs.

State trading agencies like the NFA are tasked to fill up possible shortages in basic commodities to avert a spike in demand by augmenting local supply with imports. The NFA was originally meant to manage the country's importation of rice but it has expanded its portfolio to include even sugar imports.

The NFA took an even larger role in the state's importation of key commodities after its control was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Office of the President during the Estrada administration. This system has led to clashes between the DA and NFA on when and how much to import.

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Never count the cheques before they are hitched

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OUR number of jobless is still rising, warns a group of big business, and certainly it is going to rise some more. To think, our business class already got back their balls. Sadly, nobody is using them yet. I mean, in new ventures and such, and nothing pornographic.

Anyway, everybody agrees that business is still slow. Why? Because banks are quite picky in giving out loans. Why? Because there are still not that many good borrowers. Why? Because business is still slow. Oh, I see!

As expected, some in business are mad at the banks for being stingy. They are willing to lend only to any well-run business. But the good companies do not need money. Precisely, those trying to break into bank vaults are the lousy borrowers.

And such a situation exists today, despite the economic miracle which should be happening right about now that we have this new cute administration of Gloriaetta after we already sent home the crude administration of the man named Band ... Wrist Band.

Remember all those scaremongers? Wasn't it only yesterday when they promised us the miracle when they were still just coveting power? Do you think we counted the business chicks before the economic eggs hatched?

Not long ago, for example, Mr. Vilma Sant ..., excuse me, Rep. Ralph Recto came out on TV every other second, saying the economy collapsed, and it could only "recover" if scaremongers like him would take over. Tell it to those millions of jobless, boss!

* * *

AND scaremongers persist up to now. Only the other day, reports warned about a "deadly virus" in our shrimps and prawns here, which the Australian government thus banned, and Agriculture Secretary Jeremias Montemayor had no inkling what was happening.

I had to talk to Montemayor. This is the man who could be CEO easily and rake it in, armed as he was with a good education and superior intellect, but who still devoted his life to our farmers. If this were a porno movie, he is the good guy!

It turned out that, first of all, the supposedly "deadly" virus does not affect humans, unless you are related to the crustacean family like Mr. Vil... oops. It affects only shrimps. It was a problem here about three or four years ago. Now it is gone.

Moreover, there is no "ban" in Australia. The supposed ban was just a proposal from a lowly state official to the federal government. And even if Australia imposes the ban, it never buys shrimps and prawns from us, you stupid crustacean!

The unaware Montemayor thus bewails the report as alarmist, fearing it may affect our actual exports, which go to the United States and Japan, worth P6 billion a year. Who gets hurt here? Not the mad cow infested farms in Europe, for sure.

So you once had virus in shrimps which was so deadly, it doesn't harm humans, plus a ban which doesn't exist in a country which doesn't buy our shrimps, and this Montemayor was unaware of such an alarming nonexistence. He should be sauted in hell!

* * *

NOBODY can say just exactly what makes an area suddenly tick. That Libis area in Quezon City, particularly along the C-5 Road, is bursting with activity. Restaurants. Car dealers. All sorts of shops. And they said Quezon City was decaying.

The area may yet become a model for urban redevelopment, according to Andrew Tan, chair of Megaworld, the real estate firm which converted a former textile mill there into a hi-tech park now known as Eastwood City, which probably made Libis tick.

The venture came about, because Andrew always dreamed of this creature called "urban redevelopment." To him, the metropolis could not expand forever. He also believed that people would always have reasons to stay in a certain area. QC, for one!

Thus, instead of opening up big raw lands for development, such as those in Alabang, Fort Bonifacio, and John Hay, Andrew thought that he could dabble into property ventures on some small lots in some old parts in the metropolis.

Andrew now swears there's a good market for that. Despite what they say about the economy, a lot of people still have a lot of money. You just have to give them the right product. Andrew perhaps only hit the mother lode there in Libis.

Look, that little property venture of Andrew's in Libis raked in some P2 billion last year. And they said the property market was depressed! Last January alone, it sold some P500 million. And they said that month was the height of the crisis here!

* * *

NOW their slips are showing there at the Department of Finance and the Department of Trade and Industry. Again. The two departments are clashing on a big issue once again. It's all about money, what else? They do not agree on something about taxation.

Finance always scoffs at the idea of the government's giving away billions of pesos to business. This is the job of Trade and Industry. Its Board of Investments gives out incentives to business such as long tax holidays. Years and long years of them!

But coming up with the money for the government to spend like water is the job of Finance. Those tax holidays do not make it an easy job. Traditionally, therefore, Finance always hits at the tax incentives given out by Trade and Industry.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, as expected, gave us figures showing how big the taxes Finance cannot collect due to this wasteful Trade and Industry. It's about P124 billion. *Daw*! He called it, quote-unquote, foregone revenue. In theory, it is that.

But hey, *compadrey*, the investments were made here mainly because of the tax breaks. No tax holiday, no business! If the business did not come here because there was no tax holiday, what "foregone revenue" would Finance forego? Nothing!

Those "foregone" revenues could never be foregone, precisely because none of it would exist even in theory. To quote a poet, who is a friend of mine, unfortunately, "how can I miss you if you don't go away."

On a more serious note, however, I think it's a case of Finance's counting the cheques even before they are hitched. You really don't forego taxes from business which you would never have attracted if you did not forego the taxes originally. Clear?

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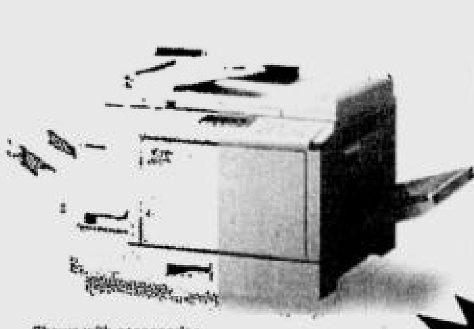

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Megaworld to develop BW's Malate property

By Doris C. Dumlao

PREMIER property developer Megaworld Corp. has entered into a joint venture with subsidiary Fairmont Holdings Inc. (formerly BW Resources Corp.) to develop the latter's Malate property, which was originally intended to be the site of its flagship Sheraton Marina Hotel Complex.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Megaworld corporate secretary Francis Canuto said the company was willing to provide financial muscle to the development of the property, which was its equity contribution to the then BW Resources.

"Megaworld will provide the financing and development of the project," Canuto said.

To kickstart the rehabilitation of the company, Megaworld has already helped Fairmont obtain P350 million worth of fresh equity infusion from global investment company Emerging Market Assets Ltd. of Hong Kong.

In an interview, Megaworld chair and CEO Andrew Tan said the company has yet to firm up what type of development to pursue or how much investment was needed for the Malate project.

"We're still waiting for the results of the study," Tan said.

The expectation among analysts, however, was that Megaworld would convert the company from a gaming to a purely property company and that the Sheraton Marina project, which was supposedly set to house the casino operation of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., would instead be converted into office and condominium spaces.

Stuck with a controlling stake in Fairmont, Megaworld, which had originally wanted to be a passive stockholder, was forced to take over the company, which has been suffering from the stigma of the price manipulation scandal linked to businessman Dante Tan, known as a crony of ousted President Estrada.

The infusion of Dante Tan's Best World Gaming and Entertainment Corp.'s bingo operations into the company was originally intended to dilute Megaworld's exposure. But with Dante Tan now out of the picture, Megaworld took it upon itself to start the company's rehabilitation.

Megaworld has already increased from two to six its representation in Fairmont's 11-member board and revamped its management.

Megaworld acquired 1.2 billion shares of BW as part of an asset-for-share swap involving the transfer of the company's Malate property. Its exposure to BW represents only around 3 percent of its total assets to date.

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.** authorized and approved the amendments to its by-laws. It likewise adopted a resolution increasing the number of shares constituting the series V and VI convertible preferred stock. Also, its annual stockholders' meeting was postponed to June 29. It will be held at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City, at 4 p.m.

* * *

PHILWEB.com Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 24, 3 p.m., at the Enterprise Center, Makati City. The record date is April 30.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 10, 10 a.m., at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila, Makati City.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, March 30, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69	69.5	232,300
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	16	16	16	16	300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50.5	50.5	50.5	50.5	14,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	225	225	224	225	67,840
Philippine National Bank	48	48	47.5	47.5	29,500
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	20,800
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp A	20	20	20	20	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	92,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	85,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1175	1180	1175	1180	5,710
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	820	840	820	840	4,550
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	42	42	42	42	22,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54	1,320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	660	660	660	300
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	705	710	695	695	60,800
Ivantage Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.95	90,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.048	76,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	44.5	44.5	44	44	58,200
Manila Electric Co. B	56	56	51.5	52.5	447,300
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.64	754,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	225,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.1	1.12	1.04	1.08	4,258,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.41	0.36	0.36	60,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	200,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	660,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12	12	12	182,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34	34	32.5	33	209,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.7	1.56	1.7	140,000
RFM Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.12	1.16	719,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	80,100
San Miguel Corp. B	54	55	53	53	47,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	208,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	20,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	715,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	27,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	2,600
A. Soriano Corp.	0.23	0.25	0.22	0.25	180,000
APC Group Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	80,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	13	13	13	13	3,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.5	2.44	2.44	6,825,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	40,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	960,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.25	21.25	20.5	20.5	146,000
Global Equities Inc	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	370,000
Ipeople Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
Ipeople Inc. B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.18	2.16	2.18	510,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	180,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	810,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	180,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	250,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION &TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	88,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.74	140,000
Music Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	471,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3,500,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt. Corp.	20	20	20	20	11,316,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber A	4	4	4	4	10,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber B	4	4	4	4	5,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11.25	126,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	2,030,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.56	0.56	2,040,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.52	0.6	0.52	0.52	170,000
Manila Jockey Club	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	4,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	42	42.5	42	42	376,100
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	139,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	7,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	36,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	7,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.045	0.045	0.043	0.043	400,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	310	310	310	310	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	1,824,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,000,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	620,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	1.96	2	1.9	1.94	12,170,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	300,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	4,100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	2,596,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.115	0.12	0.09	0.09	3,200,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	114,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	35,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.021	3,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	220,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	13,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,220,540	109,408,565.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	158,722,890	269,508,845.00
PRO	24,920,000	57,884,760.00
Mining	57,630,000	364,600.00
OIL	44,780,000	444,800.00
GRAND TOTALS	287,273,430	437,611,570.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	601.09	UP 1.40
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,961.29	UP 17.97
PRO	534.04	UP 10.81
Mining	1,132.65	UP 1.20
OIL	1.63	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	716.70	UP 6.08
Composite	1,446.40	UP 16.24

NO. OF ADVANCES: 47; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112; NO. OF TRADES: 2,062

CURRENCIES

Mar. 30, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.464129	1.000000	49.3780
Japan	Yen	0.011837	0.008085	0.3992
United Kingdom	Pound	2.089751	1.427300	70.4772
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.187713	0.128208	6.3307
Switzerland	Franc	0.847444	0.578804	28.5802
Canada	Dollar	0.931616	0.636294	31.4189
Singapore	Dollar	0.813179	0.555401	27.4246
Australia	Dollar	0.720075	0.491811	24.2846
Bahrain	Dinar	3.883837	2.652661	130.9831
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.390413	0.266652	13.1667
Brunei	Dollar	0.813631	0.555710	27.4398
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000141	0.000096	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.032754	0.022371	1.1046
UAE	Dirham	0.398673	0.272294	13.4453
Korea	Won	0.001108	0.000757	0.0374
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.683000	33.7252
Germany	Mark	0.661012	0.451471	22.2927
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134612	6.6469
Netherlands	Guilder	0.586659	0.400688	19.7852
Austria	Schilling	0.093953	0.064170	3.1686
Belgium	Franc	0.032048	0.021889	1.0808
Italy	Lire	0.000668	0.000456	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.217438	0.148510	7.3331
Portugal	Escudo	0.006448	0.004404	0.2175
Spain	Peseta	0.007770	0.005307	0.2620
Luxemburg	Franc	0.032048	0.021889	1.0808
Ireland	Punt	1.641551	1.121179	55.3616

PSE to develop IT unit into profit center

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is planning to spin off and build its Information Technology unit as a profit center in line with its plan to list in August next year.

This was contained in the PSE's business plan for 2001 to 2002.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said he would endorse the proposal to the newly elected board of governors of the exchange.

The PSE is preparing for its planned initial public offering to complete the demutualization program required by the Securities Regulation Code.

"Vital to our demutualization process is the identification of various business units and profit centers within the organization. A proposal to spin off our IT unit, otherwise known as the ATG (automated trading group), into a viable business center is part of this effort," Garcia said.

"It is my recommendation that a thorough study and analysis on the feasibility of this move be made so that we can make an informed decision regarding this matter," he explained.

Garcia noted that the board's priorities during its current term, which will expire in March next year, "are education and organizational assessment anchored on the vision of a demutualized PSE."

The development of the IT unit will likewise be a priority project as the PSE moves toward engaging itself in cross-border trading, Garcia said. He said efforts were under way to upgrade the PSE management information systems by employing more high-tech facilities and process.

Garcia also said he hoped that paperless trading would soon become part of the PSE's culture.

The bourse is set to abolish the guarantee system on the brokers' placement with the Philippine Central Depository (PCD) in order to facilitate the shift to scripless trading. This means that investors should convert all of their stock certificates into PCD book-entry credits to be able to make use of the scripless trading system.

"It is said that in the new economy, new lifestyles, businesses and strategies emerge under an electronic environment. PSE investors, as well as our brokers and employees, should undoubtedly be drawn into this new environment. The PSE will have to provide the necessary mechanisms for fostering growth," he said.

Garcia said that the PSE's website, www.pse.org.ph, was being updated as this site will serve as the exchange's primary vehicle in promoting the local exchange in the global community and in tapping potential investors. "As in the past, physical capital formation is usually the stumbling block in an emerging economy such as ours. It is hoped that the PSE's efforts toward demutualization will provide the vehicle for increasing the exchange's financial capability," he added.

Piltel debts jump to ₱41.7B

By Elena R. Torrijos

PILIPINO Telephone Corp.'s total debt burden ballooned by 20 percent to P41.755 billion as of end-2000 from P34.9 billion in January 1999 due to the depreciation of the peso.

This was disclosed to the Securities and Exchange Commission in a letter on Wednesday.

In its letter, Piltel told the SEC that by May 27, the company has to obtain the necessary approvals for the planned issuance of new convertible preferred shares to its creditors to settle half, or about P21.08 billion, of its debts. The other half of Piltel's debts will be paid within 10 to 15 years.

The convertible preferred shares could be converted into shares of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Piltel said that 95 percent of its creditors had agreed to the debt-restructuring plan, which will cover mainly dollar-denominated debts to Marubeni Corp. of Japan and to bondholders.

In the meantime, the Commission en banc approved on Thursday Piltel's request for a reduction of its filing fee to P5.8 million from P21.29 million. The fee is charged on Piltel's application for the exemption from registration of its new convertible shares.

Piltel said that its financial woes made it extremely difficult for the company to obtain funds for the filing fee.

In an interview, Piltel president Napoleon Nazareno said that the company hoped to implement the master restructuring agreement signed by creditor banks, bondholders and Marubeni and other suppliers in the next three months.

Last February, the SEC reopened an investigation of Piltel to determine whether the company misled the public about its true financial position in the last two years.

Malampaya consortium eyes 2 more gas buyers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EL NIDO, Palawan—Shell Philippines Exploration BV is in talks with two more prospective buyers of Malampaya's natural gas in a bid to expand its market.

Spex managing director David J. Greer said the prospective natural gas buyers were Magellan Utilities Development Corp. and San Pascual Cogeneration Co.

Malampaya, situated 50 kilometers northwest off this Palawan town, has a guaranteed natural gas reserve of 2.6 trillion cubic feet in more than 20 years.

To be harnessed in October this year, the natural gas from Malampaya will be used primarily to fuel three power generation plants in Luzon. These are the 1,000-megawatt Sta. Rita plant, the 500-mw San Lorenzo and the 1,200-mw Ilijan generators, all in Batangas.

The first two are owned by the Lopezes' First Gas Holdings Corp. while Ilijan is owned by a consortium led by Korean Electric Power Corp.

Greer said the Malampaya field's output could accommodate markets other than the three Luzon-based power plants.

The Malampaya consortium—consisting of Spex, Texaco Philippines and Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Co.—is also conducting a study on the feasibility of delivering natural gas directly to industrial customers, the possible development of a Metro Manila urban distribution system and the use of natural gas for vehicles.

Phone firms given one month to settle revenue-sharing row

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has given cellular phone and fixed-line telephone companies one month to resolve their dispute on revenue sharing for calls between their networks.

NTC Commissioner Eliseo M. Rio Jr. yesterday said these telephone companies must reach a compromise on this issue by end-April, otherwise, NTC would step in and impose a new revenue-sharing scheme.

Several fixed-line operators or local exchange carriers claimed that they have been carrying the full credit risk as collectors of the charges for calls made by their subscribers to the subscribers of cellular phone companies.

Under the present system, LECs get a 30-percent share, or P1.32 per minute, of the P4.40 per minute call toll charge. They said they have no share in the airtime fee ranging from P12 to P14 per minute charged by cellular phone companies.

This means LECs get only 10 percent of the revenues from calls from fixed-line users to cellular phone subscribers. About 14 percent of the toll charge goes to the inter-exchange carrier, or the backbone provider that connects the calls between two networks while the bulk of 76 percent goes to the cellular phone company.

Rio said a possible solution to this was to impose a wholesale rate scheme wherein cellular phone companies and LECs would set the prices for a certain volume of calls.

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Mktl Apartel 500-700/day 3T-4.2T/wk ful/fur 8995386

BEDSPACE

Mkt Condo M/F Food/prkg 8906331

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

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FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Edwin/ Gigie 8903461 loc. 25/27

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3rd Flr 300sqm Kamias Call 9206694/9251348

Comml Space 206sqm Call 6710815 / 6715071 Yolly

Dental Office Space For Rent Call 7330443/0917-4051539

Prime Office Space for Lease at 11F LV Locsin Bldg. Ayala Ave. w/ Manila Pen & Shangri-la View 440sqm CALL MANDY AT •817-6306 & 750-8468•

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97' Strada 4x4 9243301

98 Strada 750T 1st Own Incl Camper Shell 6821545

Ranger US ver. 4x4 9126976

NISSAN

SAFARI '97 loaded 9124428

TOYOTA

CRLLA '97 GLI A/T 9126976

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

99 ISUZU Frwd 6W P350T Vic 8903461 Loc. 27 & 25

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Starex, L300, Coaster Bus Cars 637-7396 • 631-3496

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H-100 Van/Honda 920-7360

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

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Ice Crusher Shaver Other Kitchen Equip T-9981170

RUSH SALE !
2 UNITS CHEAP HYDROFOIL

M/V SEA LION & M/V SEA LION I
(Hydrofoil Comparative Specifications)

	M/V Sea Lion (Kosei)	M/V Sea Lion I (Shunsei)
Type	---- Hydrofoil, smooth water class ----	
Engine Specifications		
Brand	MB Ikegai	MB Ikegai
Model	MB 820 D6	MB 820 D6
Hull	Aluminum	Aluminum
Maximum Speed	30 knots	30 knots
Gross Tonnage	131.86	129.36
Length	26.35 M	23.72 M
Width	5.84 M	5.84 M
Depth	3.53 M	3.56 M
Year Built	February 1969	June 1975
Passenger Capacity	125	105
Condition	As is, where is	Body newly renovated and painted Engine newly overhauled

Lot Price for two boats: P15M

Call: 633-8006; 635-4813; 635-4839
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Electric Generator Denyo 85KVA, 3000 RPM Call 9206694 / 9251348 /49

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LAB PUPS •(046)5156465•

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Del. Van Driver Needed Gerald 8312768 / 5619055

Electronics Engineer, Accounting Clerk 240-2236

Exp. DRIVER 9133006

WANTED DRIVER Call Joan, Ester/Minda, 16-A Onyx St. De La Paz Village MKT 8970308/8970381

CARS FOR SALE

1. TOYOTA LEXUS IS200
   4DR SEDAN, MODEL 1999
   P. WHITE, 7T KM., P1.6M
2. BMW 323I
   4DR SEDAN, MODEL 1999
   A/WHITE, 3T KM., P2M
3. TOYOTA PRADO VAN
   MODEL 1998, WHITE, 27T KM., P1.6M

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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MIDWIFE STAY-IN 9133005

SECRETARY w/computer & bookkeeping experience Call 9297110 9248217

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WANTED SECRETARY APPLY AT 1416 JOSE ABAD SANTOS TONDO (AM ONLY)

MALE/FEMALE

ALL AROUND BEAUTICIAN POSSIBLE STAYIN 9841155

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Ofc Staff 9134470 Roxan

Sales Mktg. M/F 744-1958

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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•EARN FR HOME 8531008•

Globe/Smart Card 5325774

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. FREE DEMO 2553584/2537617

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T-SHIRT SALE TEL4383147

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of Miguel Perido Jr. was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc. 49 Page 10 Book I Series 2001 of Notary Public Edwin A. Quilates of Quezon City PDI-March31April7&14,2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

Stock Cert 3404 Issued by Celebrity Sports Plaza, Inc. to Felipe C. Mendoza, Jr. has been lost. If unclaimed in 3 weeks, new stock certificate will be issued. PDI-Mar 24, 31, April 7, 2001

PERSONAL

Dear Che,
I love you very much. I'll meet you at the altar.
Love,
Asun
P.S. I'm the one wearing white.

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17" monitor
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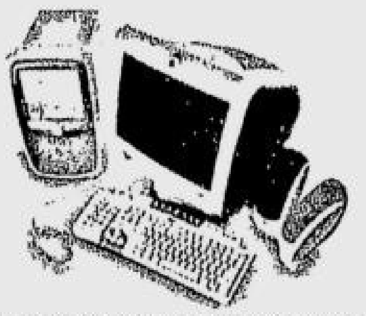

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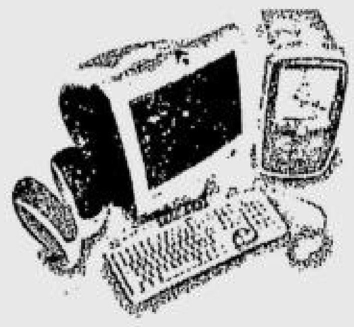

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Intel Pentium III Processor 700MHz
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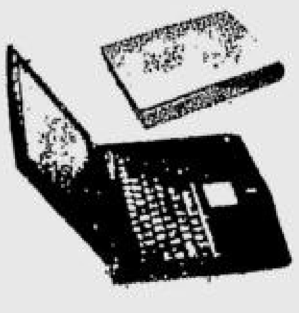
1400 Pentium III 700



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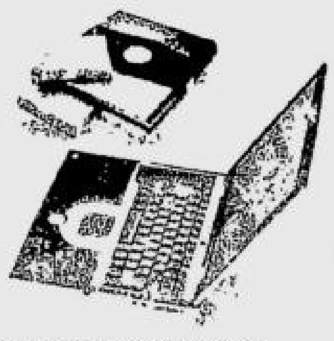

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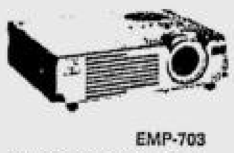

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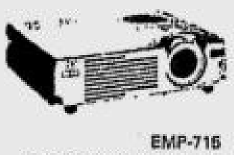

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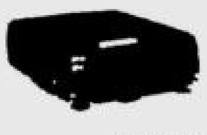

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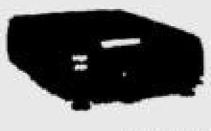

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True SXGA 2400 ANSI Lumens
Ultra-Bright installation projector
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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 1

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 01-003 (PB)

The Generation Company 1 (GENCO 1), with office at NPC Old Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, invites interested NPC accredited suppliers to bid on the items listed below. The opening will be conducted on **April 18, 20 & 23, 2001** at 10:00 AM, 1st floor, Bidding Room. Price quotation in Philippine Peso is preferred.

DATE OF BIDDING - APRIL 18, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
9905-065	20 pcs. Angle Bar, SUS 316, size 1/4" x 3" x 3' x 20' and 20 shts. Plain Sheet, SUS 316, gauge 16, size 4' x 8'
9907-035-TES	3 units, Portable Submersible Drainage Pump, can deliver 1,000 and 350 gpm at 20 m head, dual 220/460 VAC power supply, 3-phase motor, stainless steel casing and Portable Submersible Sludge Pump, can deliver 200 gpm at 20 m head, dual 220/460 VAC power supply, 3-phase motor, stainless steel casing
0003-041-TES	1 lot, Diaphragm Valve with actuator and Spare Parts and Accessories, Manufacured by ITT Engineered Valves
0004-013-TES	8 sets Guide Roller Ø 700, SUS 316L, PN 54900-0131-6 & Ø 500, SUS 430, PN 54900-0160-A and 240 pcs. Stopper, t3, SUS 316L, PN 54900-0131-33, Parts for Chain Roller Assembly, S/P for Submerge Scraper Conveyor, Manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.
0004-024	1 set, Portable Ultrasonic Flowmeter, brand new, transit time, for boiler water, raw water, seawater, slurries & oil, Polysonics, Fuji Electric or equivalent
0004-027	4 assy., Mechanical Seal, Outside, PN 1802A & Inside, PN 1802B, S/P for Hypochlorite Dosing Pump, Type 4 x 3 x 8 GRP Fiber Glass Pump, SN 091807A VE, Form No. Form Spad 143G, Speed 3600 RPM, Manufactured by Ingersoll-Rand
0005-005	25 units, Motor Compressor, for Window Type Air-con, Rotary & Piston Type, 1.0 HP, 220 VAC, 1-phase, 60 Hz and Piston Type, 1.5 HP, 220 VAC, 1-phase, 60 Hz
0005-007-TES	1 lot, Ignitor Fan Parts, Type CTF-E-MDC, Manufactured by Azuma Soluky Co., Ltd., Japan, consisting of 6 items
0007-004	1 unit, Limitorque Electric Actuator, Model L-120-20, SN AP151451 LIZUT-C, Order No. 242284-03, Spare for Mill Pyrite Upper Valve
0007-040-TES	1 lot, Data Acquisition System (DAS) Electronics Cards and Accessories Manufactured by Mitsubishi Corp., consisting of 24 items
0011-024	5 units, Portable Fire Extinguishers, for Class D fire, 30 lbs capacity, free flowing/ moisture repellent that will adhere to all metal surface, UL/FM approved or equivalent standards
0011-044-TES	3 units, Flange Mounting Differential Pressure Smart Transmitter, Model YA21F-SHSD 2"B/TBL/COM-H-FMF1, Explosion Proof Type, Yokogawa Brand
0012-001	30 cans, Filler Foam, HILTI CF 116-45 307219/6, filling/insulating, for finger dosing and grip dosing, high foam yield, in aerosol/spray can, 750 ml/can, HILTI Brand or equivalent
0012-011-TES	34 pcs., Fan Propeller for fan, Model No. LPT 360A with shaft, Fan Belt, B60 and Pillow Block Manufacturing Co., Ltd. or equivalent, S/P for Turbine Generator Roof Exhaust Fans, Model NO. LPT 360A, Maint. Bull No. IM 13-115 (10/93)
0012-017	392 prs., Safety Shoes, semi-high cut with steel toe cap, oil and chemical resistance anti-static, extra light polyrethane sole, included ladies safety shoes, waterproof color brown, cow grain leather material
0101-007	4 pcs., LBS (Node) Transceiver, Model OPT BOX, Type LBS-2CH, Manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. with 15 pcs. Spare Electronic Component, DC to DC Converter, Model CX715-24, Brand CR1 and Integrated Circuit (IC), Model DC 9007SN, SN 300964, Brand Hitachi
0101-017	2 units, Desktop Laser Printer, 1200 dpi at least 8 ppm, HP Brand or equivalent including accessories
0102-002	2800 liters, Amberjet 1200 Na, Strongly Acidic Cation Exchange Resin and Amberjet 4200 C1, Strongly Basic Anion Exchange Resin for floating and packed bed operation
0102-020	90 pcs., V-Belt, Toothed, 5V x 1800, for Crusher spare belts
0102-021-TES	350 MT, Supply, hauling/handling, storage and delivery of Liquid Caustic Soda rayon grade, for approx. six-month open contract tentatively from May 1 to October 31, 2001
0102-022	7 bots., Tuning Solution, Ultra Pure Blank Nitric Acid, Internal Solution Standard and Calibration Standard, Chemical Reagents for ICP-MS
0102-029-TES	1 lot, S/P for Powerhouse Reciprocating Liquid Chillers, Manufactured by Carrier Corp., consisting of 6 items
0102-030-TES	1 lot, S/P for Electrocatalytic (ELCAT) Electrolyzer, Model MKII Production Capacity 120 kgs/hr., Chlorine Concentrate 1720 ppm, Flow rate 5 cu.m./hr., Manufactured by ELCAT Electrocatalytic, Ltd., consisting of 22 items

DATE OF BIDDING - APRIL 20, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
0103-021	1 lot, Petroleum Hydrometer, Beaker, Porcelain, Crucible, Crucible Cover, Filter Paper, Stainless Steel Rack, Quartz Crucible and Funnel
0103-022	4 pcs. Bend Pulley with rubber lagging, Shell material Carbon Steel (JIS G 3444) Shaft material Carbon Steel (JIS G 4015) equivalent material or better
0103-023	30 gals., Herbicide (Weed Killer), in four (4) liter container (gallon), Round-up (Monsanto) or equivalent
0103-024	2 pcs., API Flexseal Inner Ring, Type 304 SS, Temp. limit up to 2000°F, Pressure 900 psi, under ASME B16.20 Resistant to Corrosion, size 840 mm inside dia., 860 mm inner ring, 880 mm outside dia., 3/16" thickness
0103-025-TES	1 lot, Oil and Igniter Spare Parts, Manufactured by Forney Engineering, consisting of 13 items
0103-026-TES	1 lot, S/P for Planetary Gearbox, Model No. VRP 100X Hitachi for HP Mills Manufactured by Hitachi Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, consisting of 17 items
0103-027-TES	50 pcs., Globe Valve, seat and disc type, straight-way pattern with ASME SA 182 Grade F22 forged chrome moly steel body, consisting of various sizes
0103-028-TES	1 pc., Oil Pressure Regulating Valve, Model 00-00536-H, Body Size 2", A 216 GR WCC, ANSI 316, Range 10.3-31 bar, Connection ANSI 300 lbs. RF, Manufactured by Masoneilan
0103-029	2 sets, Mechanical Seal, Multiple Spring Rotary L8 P045 AB, LSP Type with O ring, Stationary Seal L48045 R
0103-034-TES	325 MT Supply, storage and delivery of Hydrochloric Acid, technical grade, for approx. six-month open contract tentatively from May 1 to October 31, 2001
0103-035	1 lot, Various Office Supplies, consisting of 21 items
0103-036-TES	1 lot, S/P for Electromatic Relief Valve, Manufactured by [illegible] Industries Alexandra Louisiana, consisting of 24 items
0103-037-TES	1 set, Bus Bar, Three Phase Set with Duresca Insulation, Type DG for Indoor services, Manufactured Moser-Glaser
0103-039-TES	1 lot, Scaffolding Pipe, G.I., sch. 20, 1 ½" dia. X 20 ft. length Steel Planks, G.I. 1.2 mm thickness x 240 mm width x 2 m length and Pipe Clamp, fixed & swivel type, 1 ½" dia. with two (2) bolts for locking
0103-040-TES	40 drums, Hydrazine Hydrate, N2H4, technical grade, liquid form, 200 kgs/drum packing (drum should be of polyethylene plastic material), color straw-colored which deepens upon exposure to light
0103-041	1 lot, Industrial Degreaser, Chesterton 274, 20 liters/pail or equivalent, Contact Cleaner, Chesterton 286, 353 ml/aerosol can or equivalent and Penetrating Oil, Chesterton 723, Sprasolvo or equivalent
0103-042-TES	1 job, Supply of labor, services and parts/materials for the repair of the defective power supply unit, DC-DC Converter, Type PE 2163/10, Brand Philips (Belgium)
0103-043	700 prs., Gloves, Working, high grade leather & denim and leather combination, short arm, comfortable and high quality
0103-044	10 pcs., Food Valve, Flanged Type, Material FC20, 10 kgs/cm2 pressure, Manufactured by Tamaki Tetsuko Co., Ltd. or equivalent
0103-045	20 sets, Telephone Set, Tone/Pulse switchable, fully modular connectors and jacks, push button dialing, Panasonic Model No. KX-TS10MX-W or equivalent

DATE OF BIDDING – APRIL 23, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
0103-060	15 pcs., Sieve, stainless steel of various sizes, Sieve Receiver, fit all 12" dia. sieve, 3" receiver pan depth, stainless steel and Sieve Cover, fit all 12" dia. sieve, stainless steel, Fisher or equivalent
0103-061	30 pcs., Switch, PN 602453-59A, Brand Reliance Electric, S/P for Single-Phase Motor
0103-062	1 lot, Various Fuse, Manufactured by Ferraz, Lyon-France, S/P for Low Voltage Switchgear/MCC, consisting of 12 items
0103-063	1 lot, Rema Tip Top SC-2000 Rubber Cement, Repair Strip with fabric and with CN bonding layer on one side, Filler Rubber with CN bonding layer on both sides, Diamond Patch, with or without fabric with CN bonding layer on one side and UT-R20 hardener
0103-064	2 pcs., Air Regulator, Model NRV-210 K10, Port Size 1" NPT, Max. Working Press. 30 kgs/cm2, Manufactured by Tokyo Automatic Control Co., Ltd. (TACO)
0103-065-TES	1 lot, S/P for Gravimetric Feeders, Manufactured by Stock Equipment Corp., consisting of 10 items
0103-066-TES	1 lot, Spare Electronic Module for Main Turbine Supervisory Instrument (TSI) Control System, Type VMDS Monitoring System, Manufactured by CIS Amrein AG, consisting of 19 items
0103-067-TES	2 pcs., Power Supply PC Board Assembly, PN ID 21232, Ref. SN 518907, Dwg. No. D21232-D, S/P for Gravimetric Coal Feeder, Manufactured by Stock Equipment
0103-068-TES	1 lot, S/P for Control Valve (CV) and Low Pressure Turbine By Pass Hydraulic Cylinder Assembly of Main Turbine, Manufactured by Toshiba Corporation.
0103-069-TES	1 pc., Pneumatic Indicating Controller, Model MC43—A4C-N*A/NAS-FM-ECRB/ NPT/CAL-M/P51, Manufactured by Yokogawa Electric
0103-070	1 pc., Directional Controlled Solenoid Valve, Model DSHG-06-3C2-R2-A120-5167, Solenoid Controlled Pilot Operated, 120 VAC, 60 Hz, Manufactured by Yuken Kogyo Co., Ltd.
0103-071	1 lot, Fluorescent Tube, Ballast & Fixture, Lamp Holder, Electrical Tape, Amco & Utility Box, Fuse, Flexible Conduit, Rubber Moulding, Long Nose Plier, Ladder, Receptacle and Plate

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting April 2, 2001 and may be secured from Materials Management Division during working days from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM upon payment of P25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Sealed bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

For further information, please call 527-4861, 527-4873, 527-4892.

(Sgd.) LORNA T. DY
Officer-In-Charge
Regional Admin & Financial Services

(PDI – March 31, 2001)

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Outstanding Scholar
Nominee for Class Valedictorian
Departmental Awardee
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Ateneo de Manila University

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLAR AT ST. DOMINIC COLLEGE, BASCO, BATANES
MARINA BALANOBA
WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR CHOSEN CAREER.
From: Angel & Erlinda A. Temena

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLAR AT ST. DOMINIC COLLEGE, BASCO, BATANES
ROSEMARIE DAPILAN
WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR CHOSEN CAREER.
From: Angel & Erlinda A. Temena

LEAH VANESSA BARILLA
CONGRATULATIONS!!!
UP GRADUATE OF SPEECH COMMUNICATION
CUM LAUDE
LOVE: JANICE GARCIA

CONGRATULATIONS!
CZARINA
Study hard to attain your goals. WE LOVE YOU.
Mommy, Kuya Jay & Tery

The greatest parents: MR. WILFREDO & DR. MARIBEL CANLAS - Congratulations for raising up Kathleya... A CUM LAUDE! I LOVE YOU!

To:
KEVIN
GALLARES
BUNJAN

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION!

From: Papa, Mama,
Jev & Jem

CONGRATULATIONS!
TO MY ONE AND ONLY
PAW-PAW
STUDY HARD! I LOVE YOU.
MAW-MAW

CONGRATULATIONS!
MARY GRACE C DEL ROSARIO
SALUTATORIAN UST EDUCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
FROM MAMA & ATE AYEEN

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
MARITESS A. BATALLONES
Polytechnic University of the Philippines, B.S. Marketing
From: Angel & Erlinda A. Temena

CONGRATS KAIMITOUILLE GRADUATES-RORO, CHINO, COCOY, LIAN, MIA, PAT, AYRA FROM CAILIPAN FAMILY

CONGRATS 2 R DEAR NEAL - FR. PAPA & MAMA, KUYA, ATE & BEBENG

CONGRATULATIONS!
Gilbert dela Rosa - Jimenez

It's a **GRANDSLAM** in Grade VI for the **ROMBAWA SIBLINGS**

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

MYRENE DEPONE ROMBAWA - First Honor - OLPH, SY 92-93
(subsequently Rizal High School grad with honors, now graduating from UP Diliman)

REYNANTE DEPONE ROMBAWA, JR. - First Honor - OLPH, SY 94-95
(subsequently Philippine Science High School grad, now also in UP Diliman)

JESSICA DEPONE ROMBAWA - First Honor - OLPH, SY 00-01

Engr. Reynante & Mrs. Marilyn Rombawa thanks the teachers and management of the
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SCHOOL - Santolan, Pasig City

CONGRATULATIONS!
MARILETTE S. JAVIER
VALEDICTORIAN
Leadership Award
Girl Scout of the Year
Best in English
Best in Math
Best in Filipino
Future Homemaker
and
MARICAR S. JAVIER
Panasahan Elementary School
Panasahan, Malolos, Bulacan
From Papa, Mama,
Kuya Marvin & Tela

CONGRATULATIONS!
MARGARET ROSE "MEG" R. ARELLA
B.S. Pharmacy, C.E.U.
PETPLANS - GUMACA's First Graduate!

CONGRATULATIONS!
MA. ISABEL L. REBULLIDA
From: Uncle Jim & Tita Jean

CONGRATULATIONS!

ANNALYN "BING" RISOS ALVERO DE CASTRO

For being a member
of graduating class
Batch 2000-2001 C.E.U.
Computer Science

From: LORNA RISOS ALVERO
WESAM WORLD FASHION
K.S.A.
Tel. No. 0096614881233

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IPO prepares for management of RP's intellectual assets

THE INTELLECTUAL Property Office (IPO) began a long-term skills build-up of its workforce by conducting a one-week training on desktop productivity applications recently. This, said IPO director general Emma Francisco, will ensure that IPO personnel are ready to maximize the use of the Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment at the IPO.

"We are managing copyrights, patents and trademarks in the country. These are the new currencies of the global economy. It is important for our staff to be productive through technology due to the demands placed on the hands of the IPO," Francisco said.

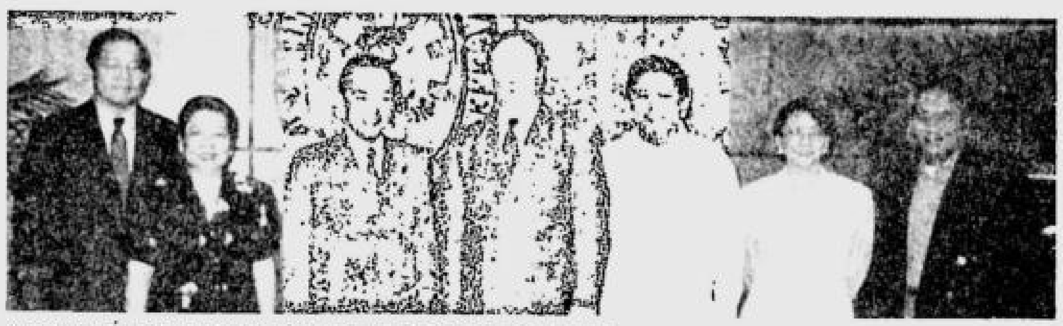
The IPO conducted the training with Microsoft to provide training for word processing and presentation through Microsoft Word and Excel. The training seminar graduated 55 participants at the Southeastern College in Pasay City. Francisco says this is "a part of a long term plan to transform the IPO workplace into a more competitive agency in its field."

Under its new mission, IPO is set on accomplishing the four-fold agency goal: customer satisfaction; institutional strengthening; improvement of operational systems and modernization.

"I am grateful that Microsoft agreed to provide the IPO with the first government training of this kind," Francisco added.

The seminar was under the project "GET I.T.-Get Certified" (Government Efficiency Training in Information Technology), a venture initiated by Microsoft in response to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call to enhance ICT human resource development particularly through expanding and institutionalizing certified programs to ensure the quality of ICT professionals.

"This IPO training is only the beginning. We expect to have more of this and focus on learning the full features of the MS Office, which is seldom utilized by many PC users," Microsoft business development director Sam Jacoba said.



NESTLÉ TRAINING HEAD VISITS AIM

Nestlé training head Victor Artzimovich (fourth from right) visits Asian Institute of Management president Roberto de Ocampo (third from left) and other AIM officials with Nestlé executives corporate HRM senior vice president Marcelino Pineda (extreme right) and HRD vice president Malu Pantoja (second from left). He presented an overview of the curriculum of the international Nestlé training center, Rive-Reine, in Vevey, Switzerland. Artzimovich, likewise, visited the Cabuyao factory and conducted a trade tour of the Cabuyao area.

STAR ALLIANCE AT TRAVEL TOUR EXPO 2001

Star Alliance, an aggrupation of 15 of the world's leading international airlines, is headstrong in its marketing efforts on its way to becoming a force to reckon with in the travel industry. During the recent Travel Tour Expo 2001, the biggest booth was put up by the Star Alliance, much to the delight of the VIP guests who gamely posed for a souvenir photo. Shown (from left) are TTE 2001 co-chair Annette Feliciano, PTAA president Ricky Ordoñez, tourism secretary Richard Gordon, Thai sales supervisor Malu Dueñas, Philippine Star EVP Grace Glory Go and staff from member airlines.

REX BOOK STORE AND ABS-CBN TEAM UP

Rex Book Store, Inc. (RBSI) and ABS-CBN Foundation have tied up in producing video-based learning modules for schools that have adopted the Foundation's Sineskwela program in classroom discussion. This ABS-CBN Foundation-RBSI partnership was sealed in a simple ceremony at the memorandum of agreement signing at the Rex Printing Company office on P. Florentino St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City. Present were (seated, from left) Don Timothy Buhain, RBSI assistant vice president; Lawyer Dominador Buhain, RBSI, Pepa and Aklat president; Zenaida Dimalanta, ABS-CBN Education program director; Juanito Fontelera, chair, Rex Group of Companies; Josephine Calamlam, Lourdes B. Santiago and Marilou M. Urbiña, Rex authors commissioned to write the video-based learning modules. Witnesses to the signing are (standing from left) Grace Ciano, RBSI external promotions head; Lailanie Teves, RBSI advertising head; and Adoracion Pabalate, RBSI Primetech head.

Manprom announces key appointments

MANPROM Inc., an affiliate associate agency of the Batey Group from Singapore, announced recently several key appointments and promotions.

Suzie C. Maturan was promoted from chief financial officer to chief operating officer. She has been with Manprom Inc. since its inception. Her experience in agency finance and operations is seen as a boost for the agency's management maturity and fiduciary stability.

Dolores F. C. Cang, president and chief executive officer of the agency also announced the appointment of Ramon C. M. Bermeo as the agency's vice president for account management and business development.

Cang said the entry of Bermeo in the agency would galvanize its account servicing operations and standards and bolster its new business acquisition capabilities. Bermeo has worked for both major Japanese brands with global operations as well as an American brand for consumer durables. At present, Bermeo is a member of the International Association of Business Communicators.

Cang also announced the appointment of Angelito C. Atienza as creative director.

Atienza began his career in broadcast production before embarking in the creative field. Cang believes Atienza's presence will energize the agency's creative capabilities and result in even more exciting work for the agency's clients.

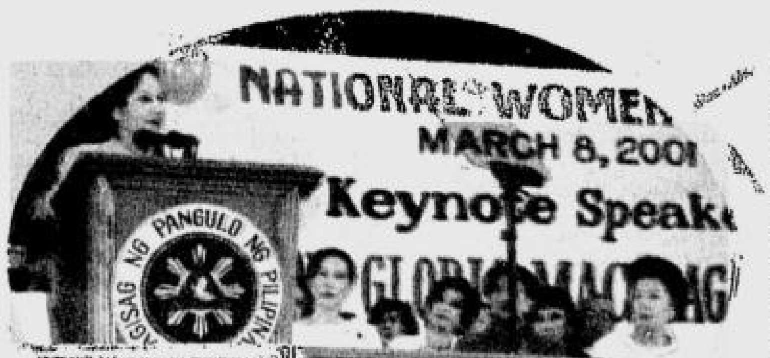
Nickelodeon, Van Melle join forces in GAS block

NICKELODEON, the TV Channel for kids, and Van Melle, the confectionery company known for its brand Mentos, recently joined forces through Van Melle's Marbels. Van Melle has signed a 10-month sponsorship of one of Nickelodeon's new programming blocks, Games and Sports (GAS) in the Philippines. The Van Melle sponsorship includes on-air as well as off-air exposure.

The alliance allows the brands to reach out to kids through Nickelodeon's on-air programming and off-air events, and through Marbels own distribution points.

"Nickelodeon and Marbels share the same brand philosophy of connecting to kids – so it was an easy decision to team up with them. This is the first of many alliances with like-minded brands that Nick will be pursuing on and off-air," said Christine Leo-McKerrow, vice president of channel operations and brand management, Nickelodeon – Asia.

Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. celebrates "National Women's Month"



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo delivers keynote address during the celebration of Women's Day at the Phil. Sports Arena. The whole day affair was spearheaded by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and sponsored by K-CPI.

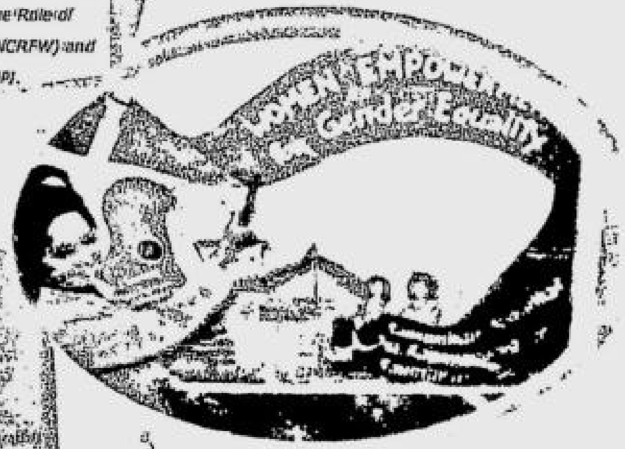
Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI), makers of NEWTEX® pads and pantiliners, KOTEX® White* pads and KOTEX® Fresh Breathable Pantiliners, joined the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) in celebrating National Women's Day last March 8, 2001 at the Philippine Sports Arena.

The day-long festivities kicked off with an alay lakad from the EDSA Shrine along Ortigas to the Philippine Sports Arena. A liturgical celebration was done to officially begin and bless the affair. Over 8,000 participants from the private, religious and government sectors were treated to song and dance numbers, an oratorical presentation, mass dancing, chorale exhibition and raffle draws.

Special guests for the day were President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the music bands of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), representatives from the Catholic, Protestant and Islamic religious sectors, singer Jamie Rivera and model/comedienne Wilma Doesnt.

Government departments and agencies that supported the event included the departments of Tourism; Interior and Local Government; Agriculture; Education, Culture and Sports; Health and Science and Technology, among others.

National Women's Day is mandated by Proclamation No. 224 which was signed by former President Corazon Aquino in 1988, declaring the first week of March of every year as Women's Week and March 8 as Women's Rights and International Peace Day. The Philippines shares the same fervor with the rest of the world in asserting new direction for equal opportunities, participation and development of women.



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KOTEX White PADS
Fresh
Girls' Night Out

KOTEX® White* pads and KOTEX® Fresh Breathable Pantiliners recently staged a "Girls' Night Out" Bar Tour for a Cause in various "in" spots in Metro Manila. The said event provided women with a venue to truly feel the fun of women's month with music, dancing, games and gifts.

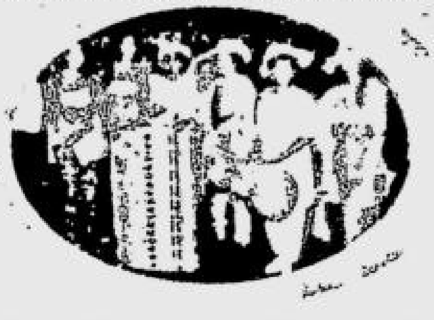
The KOTEX® celebration was held on March 16 at Streetlife, Strumms and Bistro 110 in Makati; Taza, Timbuktu and Java Hut in Malate and on March 30 at San Mig, Friends, Watering Hole, Strumms and 8th Day in Ortigas.

Three smart and beautiful KOTEX® Ladies went around the different bars to lead the party. All women were complimented and acknowledged, as they have contributed and continue to play a significant role in the advancement of our society. At each bar, a "KOTEX® Woman of the Night" was chosen from the audience and given a special gift pack from KOTEX®. Each winner was chosen by the KOTEX crew because they possessed the qualities of the modern-day Filipina: fun but not frivolous, tough, smart and manages to be sexy and strong at the same time.

K-CPI will give a cash and product donation to the International Women's Forum (IWF), an organization of pre-eminent women of diverse achievements, on behalf of all the women who joined the "Girls' Night Out" Bar Tour for a Cause.

Friends
Streetlife
8th day BAR • CAFE
Taza
Watering Hole

WOM
MARCH 8,
ynote S
ORIA MA



K-CPI feminine care team with the 1st place raffle winner Erlinda Manansala (4th from right) during the "National Women's Day" celebration at the PhilSports Arena, Pasig City. K-CPI gave out raffle prizes [illegible]

K-CPI provides free OB-Gyne consultations at drug stores

As a tribute to Filipino women, Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI), provided free OB-Gynecological consultations in selected Mercury Drug stores.

The free consultations were given at Ayala Center, Glorietta-Makati, Quezon Avenue-Scout Borromeo, Festival Supermall-Alabang, Robinson's Galleria-Ortigas, Jaka Plaza-Parañaque, Gotesco-Pasig and Ever Gotesco on March 17 and 18; and will be given at Gil Puyat Urban, Shangri-La Plaza-Mandaluyong, Q Plaza-Cainta, Araneta Center-Cubao, Commonwealth-Tandang Sora, Harrison Plaza-Malate and Citimall-Diliman on March 31 and April 1. All women are encouraged to avail of the free consultation and get their free samples of NEWTEX® pads, KOTEX® White* pads and KOTEX® Fresh Breathable Pantiliners.

FREE OB-GYNECOLOGIST
White

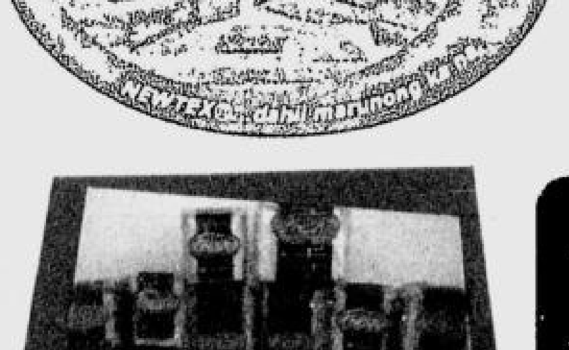
Dr. Weng Jean-Jacquet (seated, right) gives advice on how to take proper care of oneself when pregnant during K-CPI's Free OB-gyne consultation at Mercury Drug, Ever Commonwealth.

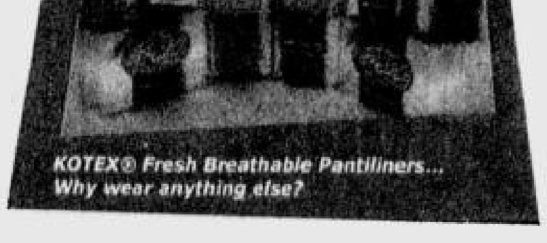
Kimberly-Clark Phils. Inc. FemaleNetwork.com Office Seminar Tour

Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. (K-CPI), makers of KOTEX® White* feminine pads and KOTEX® Fresh Breathable Pantiliners, partnered with FemaleNetwork.com for an office seminar tour to be conducted in at least ten offices in the Makati business district.

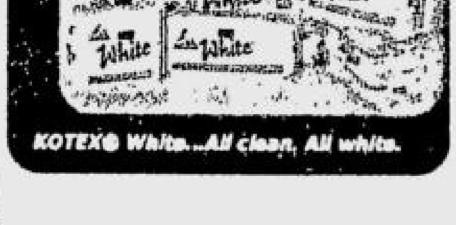
During each visit, professional speakers gave talks on topics such as Stress Management, Tips on How to Stay Fresh and Clean, Different Types of Office Dressing, Make-up Application and Uses of the Internet.

Some of the offices participating in the Office Seminar Tour are Cable Boss/Hallmark Entertainment Network (March); Ayala Corporation (March); MyPhilippines/ImpactNet (April); PAMATEC (April); Digitel (May); Pacific Internet (June) and UNICEF (July). Other possible venues are San Miguel Corporation, Viva Entertainment Network, GMA Network, WS Publishing (Yehey!, The Web Magazine), Nestle Philippines and Smart Communications Inc.





KOTEX® Fresh Breathable Pantiliners... Why wear anything else?



KOTEX® White...All clean, All white.

Kimberly-Clark Phils. gives out discount coupons to women

[illegible]

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Invitation for Bids

Date: April 2, 2001
Contract Identification No. SBIA-1-Subic II
World Bank Loan No. 4111 PH

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority ("SBMA") has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, towards the cost of the Second Subic Bay Freeport Project, and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Subic Bay International Airport Improvements Project (SBIA-1-Subic II).

   Bidding is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines : Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits published in January 1995, revised in January and August 1996, and January 1999.*

2. The SBMA invites sealed bids from eligible bidders, for the 18-month duration of the contract (6 months construction period plus 12 months Defects Liability Period) for the Subic Bay International Airport Improvements Project, to undertake among others the construction of additional aprons (concrete overlays), drainage system, water and sewer facilities, and construction of a new FedEx Vehicle Entrance.

   The minimum post qualification requirements include:

   (a) Successful experience as prime contractor in the execution of at least one project of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract over the last five years.
   (b) Must have performed an average annual volume of construction works for the last five (5) years of at least PhP 250,000,000.00 or equivalent.
   (c) Worked as Prime Contractor on works of a similar nature and volume over the last five (5) years that include the following types and quantities of work:
       1. High Strength Portland Cement Concrete Pavement: 11,160 m²
       2. Construction /Erection of Minimum 20 meters Mast Light Towers : 6 Towers
       3. Reflective Pavement Markings = 700 m²
   (d) Must have assured access to the major items of construction equipment required for carrying out the works including a concrete batching plant, transit mixers, pumpcrete, cranes, graders, bulldozers, backhoe, dump trucks and water trucks, at all times.
   (c) Must have the necessary Financial Reports for each year for the last five (5) years including balance sheet, profit and loss statement and auditor's report showing a sound financial position.

   Complete postqualification requirements are described in the "Instruction to Bidders"I

3. Bidding documents are available for collection at:

   Bldg. 222, Dewey Avenue, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

   upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 15,000.00 or US$ 300.00 at the :

   Treasury Department
   Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

   An additional amount of US$ 50.00 will be charged to overseas contractors who wish to obtain their documents by courier. The SBMA will promptly dispatch the documents by courier but under circumstances will it be responsible for late deliveries or loss of the documents so mailed.

   Interested bidders may obtain further information at the office of the:

   Project Manager, Subic II
   Bldg. 222 Dewey Avenue
   SBFZ, Olongapo City
   Tel. No. (047) 252 4543
   Fax No. (047) 252 4544

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than PhP 3,000,000.00, and shall be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 PM on **May 24, 2001** after which time the bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

   PPMD Conference Room
   Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

5. A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 3, 2001** at 9:00 AM at the FAPO-WB Conference Room, Bldg. 222, Dewey Avenue, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

(Sgd.) **CHITO M. CRUZ**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – March 30 31 & April 1 2001)

Repubiika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID
SLRC-2001-O4A

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: APRIL 19, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	PAINTS, LUMBERS & OTHER HARDWARES	3ADM01-055
A2	1000 SQM	THERMAL INSULATION	3ADM01-058
A3	1 LOT	PAINTS, THINNERS, BRUSHES	3ADM01-059
A4	1 LOT	LUMBERS, PLYWOOD, NAILS, ETC	3ADM01-063
A5	1 LOT	RESPIRATOR, SAFETY GOGGLES,SHOES, etc.	3TIW01-005
A6	1 LOT	HEAD LAMP, SPOTLIGHT	3LAG01-036
A7	1 LOT	PH ELECTRODES	3BAC01-218/ 3BAC01-224
		DATE OF BIDDING: APRIL 23, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 LOT	ANGLE BARS, FLAT BARS, PIPES (SUS)	3BAC01-200
B2	1 LOT	PRE-CUT STEEL SHIMS (SUS) TEFLON PACKINGS	3BAC01-162
B3	10 PCS.	PLATE (SUS 316)	3BAC01-199
B4	1 LOT	CONNECTORS (WEDGE TYPE ALUMINUM)	3PTG01-008
B5	1 LOT	OVERHEAD GROUND WIRES	3A301-012
B6	3 REELS	COPPER CONDUCTOR	3NCS00-119
B7	4 PCS	TURBINE TOP FLANGE GASKET	3MAK01-026
B8	1 LOT	POLELINE HARDWARES	3CSA01-082
		DATE OF BIDDING: APRIL 24, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	2 PCS	PICK-UP COIL (DIFFERENTIAL EXPANSION)	3MAK01-108
C2	8 ASSY	LEVEL GAUGE ASSEMBLY	3BAC01-197
C3	8 ASSY	LEVEL GAUGE ASSEMBLY	3BAC00-602
C4	15 CYLS	SF6 GAS (40KG.CYL)	3MAK00-286
C5	1 LOT	4-WAY VALVE, PRESSURE VALVE, STOPPER	3BAC00-605
C6	1 LOT	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FIREPROOFING DEVICE FOR WOODPOLES	3A301-022
C7	1 LOT	J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS IN THE REPLACEMENT OF MAKBAN PLANT A ACOUSTIC BOARD CEILING	3MAK01-129
C8	1 LOT	J.O.-BODY REPAIR AND PAINTING OF L-300 VAN	3ADM01-034

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting April 5, 2001. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than April 11, 2001 before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/ Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R. D. RAMAS
Manager, Administration

(PDI – March 31, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

Invitation for Bids

Date: April 1, 2001
Contract Identification No.
World Bank Loan No. 4111-PH

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority ("SBMA") has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, towards the cost of the Second Subic Bay Freeport Project, and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Proposed Emergency Rehabilitation of the Substations and Distribution System.

   Bidding is open to all Bidders form eligible sources countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits published in January 1995, revised in January and August 1996, and January 1999.*

2. The SBMA invites sealed bid from eligible bidders for 24 month duration of the contract (12 month construction period plus 12 months defects liability period) for the Construction of the Proposed Emergency Rehabilitation of the Substations and 13.8 kV Overhead and Underground Distribution System at various locations within the Subic Bay Freeport Area.

The minimum post qualification requirements include:

   (a) Successful experience as prime contractor in the execution of at least 3 projects of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract over last five years.
   (b) Must have performed an average annual volume of construction works for the last five (5) years of at least P 250,000,000.00 or equivalent.
   (c) Work as Prime Contractor on works of a similar nature and volume over the last five (5) years that include the following types and quantities of works:
       1. Rehabilitation of Field Substations with a capacity of 40 MVA.
       2. Maintenance and Overhaul of Power Transformer rated 69 kV and higher.
       3. Replacement of 13.8 kV Switchgear.
       4. Restructuring of Substations including replacement, rehabilitation and testing of parts and accessories.
       5. High voltage testing of 13.8 kV underground cables.
       6. High voltage cable termination and testing, rated 15kv and higher.
       7. Installation of Distribution line pole structures and pole top assemblies, reclosers and sectionalizers rated 13.8 kV and higher.
       8. Installation, testing and commissioning of 69kv substation equipment and accessories or higher.
   (d) Must have assured access to the major items of construction equipment required for carrying out the works including but not limited to High voltage test equipment for cables and High Voltage Equipment, Relay test Equipment, Hotline or Live line Distribution Maintenance equipment, wheel mounted cranes and lifting equipment.
   (e) Must have the necessary Financial Reports for each year for the last five (5) years including balance sheet, profit and loss statement and auditor's report showing a sound financial position.

Complete postqualification requirements are described in the "Instruction to Bidders"I

3. Bidding documents are available for collection at:

   Bldg. 222
   Dewey Avenue
   Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 15,000.00 or US$ 300.00 at the:

   Treasury Department
   Bldg. 229
   Waterfront Road
   Subic Bay Freeport Zone

An additional amount of US$ 50.00 will be charge to overseas contractors who wish to obtain their documents by courier. The SBMA will promptly dispatch the documents by courier but under circumstances will it be responsible for late deliveries or loss of the documents so mailed.

Interested bidders may obtain further information at the office of the:

   Project Manager, Subic II
   Bldg. 222, Dewey Avenue
   SBFZ, Olongapo City
   Tel. No. (047) 252-4543
   Fax No. (047) 252-4544

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of not less than PhP 3,000,000.00, and shall be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 PM on May 16, 2001 after which time the bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

   PPMD Conference Room
   Bldg. 225
   Barryman Road
   SBFZ

5. A pre-bid conference will be held on April 25, 2001 at 9:00 AM at the FAPO-WB Conference Room, Bldg. 222, Dewey Avenue, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

(Sgd.) **CHITO M. CRUZ**
Sr. D.A. for Support Services
and PBAC Chairman

(PDI--March 30, 31 & April 1, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Generation Company 1

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1-01-004 (PBT)

The Generation Company 1 with office at NPC Old Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila invites NPC ACCREDITED CUSTOMS BROKERS TO BID IN THE PUBLIC BIDDING FOR BROKERAGE SERVICES of approximately 9 x 20' std. Containers stc: Belt Conveyor under I.O. No. 001187-ESA.

The services required cover clearance of cargo from Customs custody and delivery to NPC-BCFTPP, Bo. San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas and return of empty containers.

The schedule of activities in connection with the public bidding is as follows:

Issuance of Bid Documents	-	**April 03, 2001 — April 15, 2001**
Bidding Date/Time	:-	**April 16, 2001 at 10:00 AM**
Bidding Place	-	**MMD Bidding Room** **Ground Floor, Port Area, Manila**

Bid documents shall be issued to accredited customs brokers from the Materials Management Division upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the Corporation.

For further information, please contact tel. nos. 527-48-78 & 527-48-80 loc. 242 & 228.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Officer-in-Charge
Regional Adm. & Financial Svcs.

(PDI--March 30-31, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Central Visayas

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED WHITE CORNGRAIN MILLERS (CENTRAL VISAYAS - REGION 7)

The government through the Department of Agriculture/National Food Authority, is importing a total volume of 30,000 MT with 10% more or less white corngrains to ensure the food security requirements of white corngrits consumers at the Visayas region.

As a result of the consultation meetings with the cornmillers, the distribution scheme shall be through the allocation system.

All interested cornmillers who intend to avail of the white corngrains allocation should be guided by the following:

1. The volume shall be 30,000 MT with 10% more or less white corngrains, disport Cebu.
2. The selling price is P8.25/kg ex-vessel Cebu.
3. The letter of intent (LOI) to avail of the corn allocation shall be submitted by interested corn millers stating therein the volume requested which can be up to a maximum of three (3) months of their requirements based on their milling capacities as indicated in their registration/license with the National Food Authority (NFA).
4. Interested corn millers are allowed to submit their LOI starting from April 2, 2001 up to April 6, 2001. A copy of the NFA registration/license and the documents indicating their milling capacity and the number of hours of operation shall be submitted together with their LOI.
5. All LOIs shall be addressed/submitted to the NFA through the Directorate for Marketing Operations (DMO), Central Office, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City or at the nearest NFA provincial office under Region 7 - Central Visayas, where the applicant is based.
6. NFA shall prepare a list of all corn millers that shall be given white corngrains allocation. Based on the list, a Notice of Allocation/Award shall be issued. The Notice shall include the demand for the payment of P1.00/kg commitment fee equivalent to the amount due for the total allocation.
7. Payment for the commitment fee shall be made within three (3) days from the receipt of the Notice of Allocation/Award. Payment of the remaining balance shall be made three (3) days prior to the arrival of the vessel.
8. The payment of the commitment fee can be made at NFA Central Office, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City or at the nearest NFA provincial offices where the applicant is based.
9. Payment of the commitment fee and the remaining balance shall be in Cash/ Cashier's/Manager's check.
10. The allocation system for the 30,000 MT white corngrains is subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth by the NFA. All interested applicants are required to secure the Terms and Conditions from the NFA at DMO or at the nearest NFA provincial office where the applicant is based.
11. The corn millers shall dispose of the white corngrains in corngrits form only to the consumers through the retailers at P15.00/kg.
12. The NFA reserves tne right to determine, set, reallocate on pro-data basis or forfeit any allocated volume.

For further inquiries, contact the NFA-DMO at telephone number 712-1572, 712-1564 and 712-1928.

Copies of the Terms and Conditions on the allocation system can be secured from the same office.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI--March 31 & April 1 and 2, 2001)

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
4/F Presidential Management Staff Building, Arlegui St.,
San Miguel, Manila
Telephone Nos. +632 7342102; +632 7335488; +632 7335448
Telefax Nos. +632 7342217 +632 7342218

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission-Project Management Office (PRRC-PMO) is inviting all CONTRACTORS classified by and registered with, the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium B, to apply for eligibility and if, subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project;

Name of Project	Mandaluyong Linear Park
Project Location	: Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge to Guadalupe Bridge
Project Description	: Promenade
Targeted Area	10,223 sq.m.
Estimated Cost	: P17.8M
Funding Institution	: ADB Loan No. 1745/1746 PHI/GOP

Interested contractors shall submit their duly accomplished Letter of Intent, Authority to Bid and Eligiblity Statements in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC), PRRC-PMO, 4th Floor, PMS Bldg., Arlegui Street, Malacañang, San Miguel, Manila, NOT LATER THAN 5:00 PM of March 26-April 9, 2001. Eligibility Statement Forms may be obtained from PRRC-BAC Office.

Eligible and ineligible contractors shall be notified by PRRC-BAC through telephone or fax on April 10-17, 2001. Thereafter, they must get their Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable payment of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) each from PRRC-BAC from April 18-25, 2001. Site inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on May 2, 2001 at the PRRC-BAC Office.

The deadline for submission of Bid Documents and Price Proposals, and the Opening of Bids is on May 24, 2001 at 2:00 PM (Noontime) at the PRRC-BAC Office.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provision of PD 1594 and its implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended 12 August 2000 and other applicable rules and regulations.

The PRRC-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of PRRC-BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

(PDI – March 25, 31 & April 1, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Oscar

Q. Who created the Oscar statuette?

A. The famous Academy Award figure, which is 34.3 cm (13.5 in) high and weighs 3.9 kg (8.5 lb), was created by Los Angeles sculptor George Stanley based on sketches made by motion-picture art director Cedric Gibbons. Currently manufactured by R.S. owens and Company in Chicago, each statuette is made from the alloy britannium (made up to 90% tin and 10% antimony), then plated successively in copper, nickel, silver and 24-karat gold, and lacquered with epoxy to protect the gold. The winners actually have to hand back their statuettes to the Academy so that Owens can affix plates with their names on them.

The Oscar depicts a knight, holding a crusader's sword, standing on a reel of film. The film reel features five spokes, signifying the five original branches of the US Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (actors, directors, producers, technicians and writers.)

For the Record. Three people have been credited with naming the coveted statuette "Oscar." In 1951, on her first day of work, Margaret Herrick, then the Academy librarian and later its executive secretary, exclaimed upon seeing the figurine, "he reminds me of my Uncle Oscar (Pierce)." Overhearing this remark, Sydney Skolsky elaborated on it the next day in his syndicated column, "Employees have affectionately dubbed their famous statuette 'Oscar'." For her part, Bette Davis claimed she named it after her first husband, Harmon Oscar Nelson, Jr.

WORD WATCH

Estatwa: from the Spanish *estatua*, 'statue,' which in turn derives from the Latin *statuere*, 'to stand.'

PDI--March 31, 2001

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers, suppliers and preventive maintenance contractors to be eligible to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

1. VARIOUS IT EQUIPMENT

HARDWARE	QUANTITY
Network hubs	12
Fast ethernet network switch	3
High capacity uninterruptible power supply	1
Rack mountable file servers	4
File servers (not rack mountable)	3
Desktop computers	100
Laser printers	19

2. PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

EQUIPMENT	QUANTITY
Pentium desktop computers	221
File servers	3
Dot matrix printers	140
High speed printers	4
Inkjet/deskjet printers	5
Laser printers	6
Line printers	3
Uninterruptible power supply	157
Laptops/notebooks	26

The Request for Proposal shall be made available to interested bidders starting **April 6-23, 2001** at the 3rd Floor, Information Technology Center, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City from Ms. Jackie Jose or Ms. Maricel Flores. The prebid conference shall be held at the 2nd floor Conference Room of the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue on **April 30, 2001** at 2:00 pm to clarify/explain any provision stipulated in the Request for Proposal.

Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **CATHERINE F. BAMBA**
Chairman

(PDI--March 31 & April 1, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

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Republic of the Philippines
SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) toward the cost of the Second Subic Bay Freeport Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the following contracts:
    - Supply and Installation of Sun Server Upgrades
    - Supply and Installation of New Server, Printers and Notebooks; and
    - Supply and Installation of LAN Upgrades.
2. The SBMA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery and installation of:
    - Sun E3000 Server processor and memory upgrades
    - New Unix Server (1), Various Printers (44) and Notebook PCs (2)
    - Switch-Routers (2) and structured cabling
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the International competitive bidding policies and procedures of the World Bank and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from SBMA and inspect the bidding documents during regular office hours at:

    WB-Foreign Assisted Projects Office
    Building 222, Dewey Avenue
    Subic Bay Freeport Zone
    Philippines 2222

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below:

    Atty. Chito M. Cruz
    PEAC Chairman
    c/o Mr. Michael W. Wharfe
    Subic II Project Manager
    Building 222, Dewey Avenue
    Subic Bay Freeport Zone
    Philippines 2222

    and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 20,000 or USD 400. Payment will be by cashier's check. The bidding documents may be sent by courier to the bidder provided that applicable courier fees are for the account of the bidder. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address specified in the bidding documents at or before 2:00 p.m. of May 30, 2001. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of PHP 500,000 or USD 10,000. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend the opening of bids which will be conducted immediately thereafter.

(Sgd.) **Atty. Chito M. Cruz**
PEAC Chairman
Building 222, Dewey Avenue
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Tel. No. (047) 252-4543 to 4544
Fax No. (047) 252-4544 to 4545

(PDI – Mar. 30, 31 & April 1, 2001)

PNB PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Ref. No.	Location	Lot Area (sq.m.)	Floor Area	Indicative Price
METRO MANILA				
MM-B0688	11 Antler St., North Fairview Subd., Quezon City	300	138	P 2,100,000.00
MM-B0689	30 Diamante St., Doña Julia Subd. Pulanglupa, Las Piñas City	234	110	P 1,800,000.00
MM-B0691	Unit 602, 6/F, Prince Gregory Condo., 105 12th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City	-	41	P 1,500,000.00
MM-B0438	50 Kamagong St., Northview Homes II, Filinvest Homes II, Capitol, Diliman, Quezon City	150	72	P 1,500,000.00
MM-B0692	4003 Delgado St., BF Resort Village, Talon Dos, Las Piñas City	193	107	P 1,400,000.00
MM-B0693	1927-Int. D. M. Carreon St., Sta. Ana, Manila	50	104	P 1,100,000.00
MM-B0694	233 National Rd. (Int), Purok III, Bayanan, Muntinlupa	263	125	P 1,100,000.00
MM-B0695	109 Sta. Maria cor Simoun Sts., Vitas, Tondo, Mla.	36.97	86	P 800,000.00
MM-B0696	Sapphire St., Union Village, Bo. Bagumbong, Kalookan City	240	24	P 725,000.00
MM-B0697	Interior Rivera St., Talipapa, Caloocan City	210	97	P 500,000.00
LUZON:				
LU-U0317	Bgy. Quipot, Tiaong, Quezon	17,820	244	P 15,223,000.00
LU-B0623	KM 35 Mc Arthur Highway, Tabang Guiguinto, Bulacan	452	126	P 3,600,000.00
LU-B0064	43 Santol cor Mulawin Sts., St. Anthony Subd., Taytay, Rizal	370	330	P 3,000,000.00
LU-B0698	No. 9 St. Theresa St., Maries Village, Cupang, Antipolo City	240	100	P 1,500,000.00
LU-B0699	corner Tower Hills & Midhills Sts., Tower Hills Subd., Dolores, Taytay, Rizal	128	54	P 576,000.00
LU-B0700	corner Windy Lane & Shearwater Sts., Vista Verde Country Homes, Mayamot, Antipolo City	150	-	P 480,000.00
LU-B0701	Tortosa St. (L31 B6), La Poblacion Subd., Muzon, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan	144	34	P 478,000.00
LU-B0702	No. 4 Natividad Compound, Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal	170	-	P 357,000.00
LU-B0703	Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	376.70	-	P 110,000.00

For further inquiry and prescribed forms, please visit us at 8/F Acquired Assets Administration & Sales Division, PNB Financial Center Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Or call us and ask for the following officers:

	Reference No.	Telephone Nos.
Raymond B. Lauraya	MM-B0689, MM-B0691, MM-B0692, MM-B0695 MM-B0697, LU-U0317, LU-B0623, LU-B0668 LU-B0699, LU-B0700, LU-B0701 and LU-B0703	573-4333
Jojo S. Cruz	MM-B0688, MM-B0694, LU-B0698, LU-B0702	891-6040 loc. 4707
Chito D. Bustamante	MM-B0438 and LU-B0064	526-3381
Manny B. Severino	MM-B0693 and MM-B0696	526-3406

Sealed offer/s to buy must be submitted to the above officers not later than 4:30 P.M., April 5, 2001. The offer/s must be labeled Ref. No. 03/27 & 31/ 2001-AAASD.

The properties are available for sale on cash or installment and on an "As is, Where is" basis.

Highest and acceptable bid is subject to approval by the Bank's appropriate approving committee.

PNB reserves the right to withdraw any/or all the properties from the above list any time before the deadline for submission of offers for whatever purposes.

ACQUIRED ASSETS ADMINISTRATION & SALES DIVISION

Republic of the Philippines

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1. VIRGINIA JAVAR	Unknown	PORFERIO ALIMAGNO SS#03-1999547-9	November 4, 2000
2. BERNARDO ATIENZA	Blk 4, Lot 1, Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas, M.M.	LETICIA J. ATIENZA SS#04-0299262-2	April 25, 2000
3. ANGELITA ADRIATICO	Balubad St., Nangka Marikina	ARMANDO BANEZ SS#03-6354763-7	December 3, 2000
4. ZENAIDA IGLESIA	Unknown	VICTOR D. BULOSAN SS#03-1155739-4	June 22, 2000
5. LYDIA RABI, MILAGROS SUSAN, BERNARDITO	East Canumay Valenzuela, M.M.	RENATO CARANZA SS#03-8310167-1	February 21, 2000
6. JONALIN CATAYOC	Unknown	REYNERO CATAYOC SS#06-0372321-8	October 4, 2000
7. BRIGIDA M. CLARO	Malabag, Lanao del Sur	JOVITO S. CLARO SS#06-0226069-1	November 23, 1996
8. MARIA ILAN	Unknown	MARTIN B. DE LEON SS#03-1384254-4	May 4, 2000
9. CORAZON DAGUY	Davao City	AURELIO DEL CARMEN SS#03-5440177-9	June 7, 1999
10. CATALINA LACOSTE	Panungyan, Mendez, Cavite	PABLO DEL ROSARIO SS#03-1163084-2	April 28, 2000
11. ADORACION MENDEZ	Sta. Ana, Manila	NEPTALI D. DIOLATA SS#03-2476677-4	November 11, 2000
12. MARIA ISIP	Unknown	ARMANDO ESTEBAN SS#03-3003828-9	September 23, 1995
13. JUDITH O. FLORES	Bamboo Vill. Basak, Pardo, Cebu City	SAMUEL S. FLORES SS#06-0546772-1	November 10, 1987
14. REMEDIOS ASERO	Unknown	FLORENCIO FRANCIS SS#03-5813711-7	June 14, 2000
15. REYNALDO FRANCISCO	20 Lopez Jaena St., Tanong, Marikina	MARILYN FRANCISCO SS#33-1087541-4	December 24, 2000
16. ROSA DOMEGA	Tarlac City	FEDERICO GONZA SS#03-3539629-8	January 15, 2001
17. ELENA MEDINA	#0022 Sitio San Jose, Brgy. Pag-asa Binangonan, Rizal	NOE DANTE B. MEDINA SS#03-7775591-0	December 16, 2000
18. LORETA MORALES	Apale, Merida, Leyte	ROGELIO MELLORIN SS#06-0877107-4	October 16, 2000
19. FLORENCIA HERNANDEZ	Unknown	RODRIGO NARZABAL SS#04-0023273-7	August 7, 2000
20. GREGORIA	Unknown	SAMUEL PASCUAL SS#03-4393698-3	April 8, 1991
21. SOLIDAD PIOQUINTO	Sargali, Zamboanga City	MARIO PIOQUINTO	April 17, 1998
22. NESTOR REMULTA	Pantaron, Sto. Tomas Davao del Norte	EUSEBIO REMULTA SS#09-0254221-3	May 20, 2000
23. YOLANDA REOSURA RODELO REOSURA	Crossing Central Hawaiian	NORBERTO REOSURA SS#03-1662105-0	September 9, 2000
24. LYDIA RESURECCION	Colonia, Lamitan, Basilan Province	FELICIANO RESURECCION	September 14, 2000
25. CANDY SERADON	Unknown	ELISEO Q. SERIDON SS#03-8490059-6	September 30, 1990
26. ELVIRA SUMANDI	Unknown	ADOR SUMANDI SS#03-2586037-8	November 8, 1999
27. HISTENA S. TAUSA	Balacanas, Villanueva Misamis Oriental	FRANCISCO A. TAUSA SS#08-0420405-7	February 25, 2000
28. DEMETRIA TORRES REYNALDO, ROWENA, RUBIDINA, RALYNE	25 Malvar, J. Dela Pena, Marikina	REYNALDO TORRES SS#03-2427496-5	January 8, 2001
29. ENCARNACION CATAMISAN	Unknown	LORETO VALERA SS#03-2613379-0	January 21, 2001
30. EMMANUEL VENTAJAR	Unknown	EDWIN C. VENTAJAR SS#33-2001373-2	January 16, 2001

(PDI – March 31, 2001)

JARDINE LLOYD THOMPSON INSURANCE BROKERS

Incorporated

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8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Philippines 1226

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Tel. No. (632) 884-5600
Fax No. (632) 885-7080

A Jardine Matheson Associate Company

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

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NOTICE TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Pre-qualification Bid and Award Committee on Information Technology Resources (PBAC-ITR), this Department, invites prospective bidders to pre-qualify and bid for the Garments & Textile Export Board requirement for WiReS Project.

2 units Dual Intel Pentium III 1GBz rack-mount Servers
2 units Single Intel Pentium III 866 MHz rack-mount Servers
1 unit Multi Platform Universal KVM Matrix Switch
1 unit Enclosed Server Cabinet
1 unit 3COM RAS 1500 Expansion Unit (3C421670)
2 units 3COM RAS 1500 4-Port Analog V.35 cards
1 unit Firewall Appliance
1 set Minisoft JDBC Software & Driver
1 set Microsoft Backoffice 4.5
1 set Chat space or equivalent
1 Internet Service Provider (ISP)

Pre-qualification forms can be secured from Mr. Celso R. Aguilar, Secretary, DTI-PBAC-ITR, General Services Division, Ground Floor Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Pre-bidding conference will be held on **April 17, 2001, 2:00 PM** at 5th floor MIS Conference Room DTI building.

THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS AND WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

(Sgd.) **JESUS L. MOTOOMULL**
Chairman, DTI-PBAC-ITR

(PDI--March 31 & April 1, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines * Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for one (1) unit:

a.) Cardiovascular X-ray System b.) Mobile C-arm X-ray w/ digital imaging, vascular package & accessories. c.) Combined Cardiac & Peripheral CV X-ray System

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Article of Incorporation & by-laws
3. Bus. License
4. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
5. ITR for the last 2 years
6. List of clients & contact person
7. Location Map of Office
8. DOH Accreditation
9. Certificate of Training/s for Service Engineers
10. Product list w/ Cert. of Exclusive Distributorship & brochure
11. Notarized Cert. of Authority to sign & represent the company
12. Certificate of major parts availability

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **April 20, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 & April 1, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Regional Field Office NO. I
MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Batac, Ilocos Norte

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte, hereby invites suppliers, manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

Hospital Drugs and Medicines Requirements; Medical & Surgical Supplies; Laboratory Supplies & Reagents; X-ray & Dental Supplies.

Bid documents can be secured from the Supply Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of SIX HUNDRED PESOS (P600.00) only for the bid forms. Issuance of bid documents will be on **April 02-19, 2001.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on **April 19, 2001;** 10:00 a.m. sharp at the Conference Hall Training Center of MMMH & MC, Batac, Ilocos Norte.

May 10, 2001 - 9:30 a.m. sharp –	for Drugs & Medicines
May 11, 2001 - 9:30 a.m. sharp –	for Medical, Surgical, Laboratory, X-ray and Dental Supplies

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason or waive any formality therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated by the Committee on Bids and Awards, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO B. NARAVAL, M.D.**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - March 26 & 31, 2001)

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STELLA ALBERT ZULUETA

wife of **Rafael Zulueta** (†)

Peacefully joined our Creator on March 30, 2001.

Her children **Rafael** (†) and **Evelyn, Dickie** (†) and **Susan, Carol, Matti** (†), **Miguel** and **Vicky**; grandchildren **Baccus** and **Charlotte, Mimi, Gabby, Iñaqui, Justine, Alexis, Diana, Ritcho, Dino, Michael, Monica, Marita, Trixie, Frances.** Her remains lie in state in Santuario de San Antonio, Campanilla de San Francisco, Forbes Park. Interment will be announced later.

RENE MA. ALBERTO CALVENTO

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 29, 2001 at the age of 46.

His loving wife **CHARY**; children **RINA, CARLA, RAMON** and **CELINA**; brothers, sisters and in-laws; **CHOLO** and **BENG, TONY, GING** and **JUN OBALLO, NINIT** and **RUDY GO, CIELO** and **ROGER ENRIQUEZ** and **CALOY LACSON**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request everyone to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2-B, Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will follow after the 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass on Sunday, April 1, 2001 at the Crematorium Chapel, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

> ***"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."***
> *2 Cor. 5:8*

PILAR QUIAZON ANGELES

of San Fernando, Pampanga
and Malate, Manila

peacefully joined her Creator on March 29, 2001 at the age of 84.

Her bereaved children **Cesar** and **Kristine, Chacho** and **Marlyn, Mario** and **Olive** (†); brothers and sisters **Moneng, Fely, Auring** and **Pento**; nephews and nieces, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Malate Church. Interment will be on Sunday, April 1, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 1:30 p.m. Holy Mass.

WILLIAM O. MAPUA

A good Father, peacefully joined our Creator on March 27, 2001 at the age 54.

His wife **ESTER**; children **HARRIS** and **STEPHANIE**; brothers and sister **LOLITA, EDMUND, RITA, JOSEPH, VIOLY, AZUCENA, SAMSON, LUCIA, JOHNSON, ELIZABETH** and other relatives thank God for having blessed us with someone like him and for his peaceful passing.

His remains lie in state at Holy Family Chapel, Mt. Carmel Church, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

PATERNO P. SANTOS

2nd Lt. PAF (Ret.)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 28, 2001

His bereaved wife **Luisa**; children, **Allan, Pinky, Alona** and **Lito**; sisters **Bernie** and **Letty**; nephews and nieces together with relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, San Jose, Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on April 1, 2001, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. at Golden Haven Memorial Park, Las Piñas City.

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In the Obituary ad of the late

(Ret.) BRIG. GEN. LUIS VILLA-REAL

published in this paper March 29, 2001, **Interment will be at Libingan ng mga Bayani instead of North Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.**

Villa-Real Family

PASASALAMAT

Kaming mga anak ni

"Mommy" Caridad Castillo Pagaduan

ay taus-pusong nagpapasalamat sa inyong pagbisita at pagsama sa amin hanggang sa libingan. Di namin makakalimutan, pati na ng Mommy, ang saya ng ating muling pagkikita

Sana magtagpo tayong muli sa iba namang pagkakataon.

> ***"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."***
> *Matt. 11:26*

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Identifying 'silent' heart patients

BY THE CHARTER BUREAU

SUDDEN death may be the first indication of a heart problem.

According to Dr. Nelson Abelardo, chief of cardiology at the UP-PGH Medical Center, more than one-third of patients with narrowing of the heart arteries called coronary artery disease or CAD do not have the classical symptoms of chest pains or difficulty of breathing. They discover a bit too late that they have a serious CAD when they develop a heart attack or other serious complications already. And one-fifth or 20 percent of these patients die before they even reach the hospital.

Underlying cause

Abelardo explained that CAD is the underlying cause of most ischemic cardiac events and can result in myocardial infarction or heart attack, heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias to irregular heartbeat, and sudden cardiac death. Clinically significant CAD is uncommon in men under 40 and premenopausal women, but risk increases with advancing age and in the presence of risk factors such as smoking, hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol and family history of heart disease.

Although deaths from heart disease have declined steadily over the past three decades, the total burden of CAD is predicted to increase substantially over the next 30 years due to the increasing size of the elderly population. "The cost of medical care and lost economic productivity due to heart disease has been projected to run into hundreds of millions of pesos," stressed Abelardo.

Angina is the most common presenting symptom of CAD, but in many persons, the first evidence of CAD may be heart attack or sudden death. It is estimated that 1 to 2 million middle-aged Filipinos have asymptomatic but significant CAD, also referred to as silent myocardial ischemia or the lack of oxygen in the heart.

According to Dr. Rogelio Tangco, head of the UP-PGH cathlab, both the American Heart Association and the Philippine Heart Association recommend two screening strategies to reduce morbidity and mortality from CAD. The first involves screening for modifiable cardiac risk factors, such as hypertension, elevated serum cholesterol, cigarette smoking, physical inactivity, and diet. The second strategy is early identification and detection of asymptomatic CAD.

Principal tests

Tangco added that the principal tests for detecting Symptomatic CAD include resting and exercise electrocardiogram (ECG) or stress test, which can provide evidence of previous silent heart attacks and silent or inducible myocardial ischemia. The cardiologist or heart specialist may request for other sophisticated tests such as Thallium-201 scintigraphy, exercise echocardiography, and ambulatory ECG (Holler monitoring), but these are less commonly used for screening purposes. "The usefulness of each of these tests may be evaluated by its ability to detect atherosclerotic plaque or clogging of the heart arteries, and its ability to predict the occurrence of a serious, clinical event in the future such as heart attack and sudden cardiac death," Tangco said.

Routine ECG testing in asymptomatic persons does not guarantee detecting CAD or for predicting future coronary events in all cases. An abnormal ECG finding is helpful in identifying CAD patients but a normal ECG does not rule out CAD, explained Tangco.

The exercise ECG is more accurate than the resting ECG for detecting clinically important CAD. However, Tangco also stressed that most patients with asymptomatic CAD do not have a positive exercise ECG. "ECG changes often do not become apparent until an atherosclerotic plaque has progressed to the point that it significantly impedes blood flow in the heart arteries," Tangco said.

Abelardo and Tangco also agreed that most asymptomatic persons with an abnormal exercise ECG result do not have underlying CAD. "This is called a false-positive result and the cardiologist must really correlate all the clinical findings with the patient's history and physical examination. This correlation with the patient's risk-factor profile is the most cost-efficient way to arrive at a rational diagnosis and early detection of CAD patients," explained Abelardo.

(Charter is the acronym for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management, a nonstock, nonprofit research foundation that evaluates the impact of risk factors and interventions, particularly lifestyle changes, on heart, lung and other diseases. Charter is based at the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Biology and other science snafus

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FOLLOWING is a list of erroneous but hilarious interpretations of nature from American junior high, high school, and college test papers and essays submitted to science and health teachers. The spelling errors have been preserved in the way they were originally written. This list was forwarded to me through e-mail by Albert Evangelista (alisevan@edsamail.com.ph). Many thanks!

WARNING: The following statements are all WRONG.

About the human body:

1. When you breathe, you inspire. When you do not breathe, you expire.
2. Three kinds of blood vessels are arteries, vanes and caterpillars.
3. Blood flows down one leg and up the other.
4. Respiration is composed of two acts, first inspiration, and then expectoration.
5. The body consists of three parts—the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abominable cavity contains the bowls, of which there are five a, e, i, o and u.
6. The alimentary canal is located in the northern part of Indiana.
7. The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off. The purpose of the skeleton is something to hitch meat to.
8. A permanent set of teeth consists of eight canines, eight cuspids, two molars and eight cuspidors.
9. Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative.
10. To remove dust from the eye, pull the eye down over the nose.
11. For a nosebleed: Put the nose much lower than the body until the heart stops.
12. For fainting: Rub a person's chest, or if a lady, rub her arm above the hand instead. Or put the head between the knees of the nearest medical doctor.
13. For head cold: Use an agonizer to spray the nose until it drops in your throat.

About plants and animals:

1. Artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull.
2. Mushrooms always grow in damp places, so they look they umbrellas.
3. The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects.
4. A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it is, the more extinct it is.
5. Germinate: To become a naturalized German.
6. Liter: A nest of young puppies.
7. Magnet: Something you find crawling all over a dead cat.
8. Rhubarb: A kind of celery gone bloodshot.
9. For dog bite: Put the dog away for several days. If he has not recovered, then kill it.
10. To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.

About air and water

1. H_20 is hot water, and $C0_2$ is cold water
2. To collect fumes of sulphur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube.
3. When you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide.
4. Water is composed of two gins, Oxygin and Hodrogin. Oxygin is pure gin. Hydrogin is gin and water.
5. Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down on them and makes them perspire.
6. A super-saturated solution is one that holds more than it can hold.
7. For drowning: Climb on top of the person and move up and down to make artificial perspiration.
8. For asphyxiation: Apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.

About our world and outer space:

1. The moon is a planet just like the earth, only it is even deader.
2. The tides are a fight between the earth and the moon. All water tends towards the moon, because there is no water in the moon, and nature abhors a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.
3. Momentum: What you give a person when they are going away.
4. Planet: A body of earth surrounded by sky.

And my personal favorite? Vacuum: A large, empty space where the Pope lives.

* * *

To science and mathematics teachers: send me your favorite student snafus, and I may publish them in a future column. To other readers: send me your favorite science jokes. Write me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1128. Or e-mail me at queena@ math sci.math. admu.edu.ph.

Natural supplement vs infection, cancer

EXTRACTS from the aloe vera plant may help enhance a person's defense mechanism in fighting infections, cancer and other problems of the immune system. It also helps in digestion and provides a natural moisturizing effect on the skin to enhance its glow.

These testimonials come from scientists and researchers who have done clinical investigation of this medicinal plant.

Prof. Ivan Danhof, a medical specialist in internal medicine and gastroenterology and a leading authority on aloe vera, reports in his paper that the plant's large mucopolysaccharide molecules show antibacterial and antiviral effect which may help combat new infectious diseases and older ones that have become virulent from the long-term use of antibiotics.

Danhof, a retired physiology professor from the University of Texas, is the author of 80 original research papers. He says that aloe vera molecules are immune-modulating, with a strong beneficial effect in AIDS, cancer and many different immune system disorders. The aloe vera stimulates the body to produce a natural chemical called tumor necrosis factor, which functions to shut off the blood supply to tumors.

Effect on digestion

According to Dr. John Pitmann, who has written extensively on aloe vera, it helps the immune system through its beneficial effect on digestion. All immuno-depressed conditions such as systemic candidiasis, chronic fatigue syndrome, HIV infection and others have a high incidence of digestive dysfunction or maldigestion.

Pitmann explains that poorly digested food remnants irritate the intestines, increasing permeability of the cells in the intestinal wall and allowing undigested proteins to leak into the lymph system. These are sensed by the immune system as "foreign invaders" that have to be neutralized, leading to exhaustion of the immune system. Undigested proteins become a breeding ground for candida and other opportunistic infections. Researchers have shown that aloe vera has a remarkable ability to normalize all these damaging processes, enhancing the immune system through improved digestion. Pitmann agrees with Prof. Danhof that aloe vera may have a direct antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal and antiparasitic effects.

Against infections

Researchers at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, discovered that aloe vera mucopolysaccharides show strong beneficial effects in severe infections including AIDS. The synthesis and structure of the virus is altered making them less potent in infecting the body's cells. Opportunistic infections decreased and the patients were able to resume normal activity.

Researches by the renowned immunologist Dr. Ian Tizard and virologist Dr. Maurice Kemp from the Texas Research Institute, showed that aloe vera mucopolysaccharides stimulate the macrophage and other cells of the immune system to release messenger molecules called cytokines, which are substances such as interleukins, interferons, prostaglandins and tumor necrosis factors. These substances may explain aloe vera's enhanced resistance to infections and cancer.

Against cancer

Tumors release a chemical that attracts blood circulation so that malignant cells can multiply fast because of its rich blood supply. Tumor necrosis factor stimulated by aloe vera may help shut off the blood supply to the tumor to retard the growth of the tumor or even cause its decrease. This is corroborated by another report in the Journal of Cancer Immunotherapy stating that lectin, a compound from aloe vera, when injected directly into tumor tissues, activates the immune system to attack the cancer cells.

Japanese researchers suggest that aloe vera may help prolong survival time and enhance the immune system of cancer patients. In a published study in the Japanese medical journal Yakhak Hoeji, experimental animals with cancerous tumors showed a 22-percent increase in their life span when given aloe vera. A separate in vitro study on human cancer reported that high doses of aloe vera significantly suppressed the growth of cancer cells.

More data are being awaited to validate the apparent anticancer and other immuno-pratective properties of aloe vera. However, many medical practitioners now prescribe oral aloe vera as a beneficial preventive food supplement in cancer-prone individuals particularly smokers, dwellers in polluted environments, those fond of eating excessive preservative-treated junk foods, and those with strong family histories of cancer. It is also prescribed as a supplement in preventing infections. The bonus effects are its favorable effects on the skin and digestion. Its users report a healthy skin glow and faster wound healing noted with its regular use.

Trianon aloe vera, which comes in softgel capsules, is now available as an over-the-counter food supplement at Mercury Drug stores. Each softgel capsule contains 5,000 mg of high- quality aloe vera concentrate manufactured by HealthCo International of Illinois, USA. HealthCo is one of the leading manufacturers of vitamins and food supplements in the United States. The recommended dose of Trianon aloe vera is two to three softgel capsules daily. Bigger doses may be taken under a doctor's supervision as a supplement to therapy for medical conditions such as infections or cancer. Trianon aloe vera is co-marketed locally by Trianon International Inc. and HealthLine Systems Inc.

SCISCOPE

Seminar on epilepsy today

THE PHILIPPINE League Against Epilepsy and the Department of Health are offering a free public forum about the disease this month. Titled "Epilepsy: Out of the Shadows," the forum will tackle issues about epilepsy and how it can be treated. The forum will be held today, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Ledesma Hall, 9th floor, Makati Medical Center. Interested participants may register at Room 323, Makati Medical Center, or call up Jenny San Jose at 815-9911 local 7323. The forum is supported by global pharmaceutical firm Pfizer.

Occupational health course at UP

THE UP Manila College of Public Health through the Department of Environment and Occupational Health will hold its 43rd postgraduate course on occupational health and safety from April 17 to 25 (excluding weekend) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The postgrad course will be conducted at the CPH auditoirum, 625 P. Gil St., Ermita, Manila. It is open to physicians and other health professionals interested in occupational health. This course satisfies the Department of Labor and Employment's training requirement for company physicians and nurses. Course coordinators are Dr. Benjamon C. Vitasa and Prof. Victor V. Sabandeja. For inquiries, please call up Chit or Ruby at 527-5966 or 524-7102.

What you should know about vaginal discharge

OFTENTIMES women are reluctant to discuss their bodies even with other women or medical practitioners. They regard these issues as private matters, and when they notice some changes in their bodies, women either self-medicate or keep their observations to themselves.

The Department of Health steps up on its information drive to educate women on their bodies and its many changes. By knowing one's bodies and the natural occurrences that it goes through, women can recognize any problem and seek advice and medical attention when appropriate.

One of these natural occurrences that happen in women's bodies is vaginal discharge. Women are mostly shy to discuss this matter, as it involves speaking about their private parts. But vaginal discharge is a normal way for a woman's body to cleanse itself. Just as she uses soap to cleanse the outer parts of her body, a woman's vagina uses its discharge as an inner cleanser.

Vaginal discharge should cause little concern for a woman not unless she observes significant changes in these bodily fluids. That's why it's important for women to recognize the difference between normal and abnormal vaginal discharge.

As a woman, your normal vaginal discharge may have a whitish to slightly milky color. On your underwear you may notice a slightly pale yellow hue and sometimes the discharge is colorless and normally odorless. It doesn't pose as irritant to the surrounding skin or tissues. Your vaginal discharge normally becomes thicker before menstruation while thinner and heavier before and during ovulation. This change is brought about by the interplay of the ovarian hormone in your body throughout your menstrual cycle.

When the vagina is infected, the characteristics and amount of the discharge may change. It may have a different color like greenish yellow and curd-like or cheesy in consistency. And there is an increase in amount while worst and annoying is the fishy or foul odor.

At some point in a woman's life, may have experienced some form of vaginal infection and most common is the *vaginitis:* This infection may take on different forms and caused by some irritants. Some forms of vaginitis are caused by protozoans and fungus called *Candida Albicans* that manifest itchiness accompanied by curd-like or like cottage cheese vaginal discharge.

Other forms of vaginal inflection are caused by bacteria that usually do not lead to disease unless the body defenses are lowered or weakened. Still others are caused by sexually transmitted organism or bacteria in which the woman may feel the following symptoms of difficult and painful urination and sometimes with pus in the vaginal discharge. This can cause infertility to the woman.

Learning to notice the changes in your vaginal discharge can help you recognize infection and get treatment for it immediately.

The case of the triple bogey

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, M.D.

DR. Manny lined up his tee shot for the 2nd hole of the beautiful beachside golf course along the West Coast in the United States. He was attending a medical congress and his cousin invited him for a round of golf during one of the congress breaks. The sun was already right on top of them but the gentle breeze was a soothing balm to their parched skin.

Manny, a well-known heart specialist practicing in the South, was also a champion Class-A golfer in the Philippine Heart Association where he was an active member. He was a low-handicapper, usually hitting only 5 to 6 over par even in unfamiliar golf courses. But that day, he already triple bogeyed the 1st hole, something that happened only once in a blue moon.

It must be the jet lag, he thought. Or most likely, it's that progressively pounding headache which he had since he woke up that morning. It was unrelieved by the strong analgesic he took before leaving the hotel. Even with that severe headache, he was determined to finish playing the 18 holes. He had been looking forward to this reunion with his cousin, whom he last saw more than 15 years ago.

Manny aimed for the green of the par-3 2nd hole. He wondered why the flag seemed double and as he stretched for his backswing, he felt a severe indescribable pain in the head, as if some dynamite had exploded in his skull. His golf club was hurled backward as his robust body fell on the fine Bermuda grass. That was Manny's last recollection of what happened that day.

Manny's cousin initially thought that Manny just fainted due to the blistering heat. But after efforts to revive him failed to elicit any response, he knew it was something serious. He dialed 911 on his cell phone, and within a few minutes, a rescue helicopter with well-trained paramedics on board brought Manny to the nearby tertiary medical center.

MEDICAL FILES

With swift medical precision, Manny was promptly attended to at the hospital ER. Immediate computed tomography (CT) scan of the head showed subarachnoid hemorrhage. The subarachnoid space is the space between the brain and its covering, called meninges. The usual cause of bleeding is a weak blood vessel, which suddenly ruptures. This may be either an aneurysm or an arteriovenous malformation. It can occur at any age but are reported to be more common between the age of 25 and 50.

Occasionally, degeneration of the blood vessel due to atherosclerosis or infection may damage and weaken it sufficiently to cause its rupture. Head injury may also be a cause of subarachnoid bleeding.

Aneurysms that cause subarachnoid bleeding may produce no symptom before rupturing. However, when they press on a nerve, or leak small amounts of blood before a major rupture, they can cause severe warning signs and symptoms such as headache, facial pain, double vision or other visual problems. These may occur minutes to weeks before the rupture. When one has these symptoms, it is important to see a doctor immediately so steps may be taken to prevent a massive hemorrhage.

When a rupture of the aneurysm finally occurs, it produces a sudden severe headache followed by loss of consciousness. Seizures or convulsions may also develop. In about one-fourth of cases, paralysis on one side of the body may be noted.

Diagnosis can usually be made with a CT scan, which localizes the site of bleeding. The attending neurologist may also tap the spine bone at the back to draw a sample of the cerebrospinal fluid, which can reveal the presence of blood. Cerebral angiography, which is an X-ray examination using a dye to visualize the blood vessels in the brain, is usually done within 72 hours to confirm the diagnosis and guide any planned surgery.

Surgery is done to isolate, block off or support the walls of the weakened artery to reduce the risk of a fatal rebleeding later on. The surgical procedure is difficult and carries a relatively high death rate even in the best of hands and facilities. The risk is even higher if the patient is in stupor or coma.

The best time for surgery is still controversial and usually decided on a case-to-case basis. Most brain surgeons recommend operating within 3 days from the start of symptoms. Some would delay the operation 10 or more days to reduce the risk of surgery especially if there is significant brain swelling. There is however a risk of rebleeding in the interim.

Subarachnoid bleeding can be fatal in about one-third of patients during the first episode due to extensive brain damage. Another 15 percent more may die within a few weeks as a result of subsequent bleeding. Occasionally, luck may be on the patient's side when a small bleeding site may seal off by itself and may not even show on angiography. No surgery is necessary, although patients who survive after 6 months without surgery carry a 5 percent yearly risk of another episode of bleeding.

Survivors recover most of their mental and physical functions following an intensive program of rehabilitation therapy after surgery for subarachnoid hemorrhage. However, in many cases, some residual neurologic deficits may linger or persist permanently.

Manny is one of the lucky and blessed few who survived a massive subarachnoid hemorrhage. A year after, he has gone back to medical practice and resumed playing golf. His golf handicap is now much higher and a lot of triple bogeys would litter his scorecard. He isn't bothered one single bit by any of these triple bogeys. But he can never forget that hot summer day several years ago when he triple bogeyed the 1st hole.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Aside from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patients. Some information have been changed to hide the patient's identity. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T. M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph.)

SCIENCE /HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Hot, hot summer predicted

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE EFFECT of the easterly winds coming from the Pacific Ocean has begun. Warm, humid days are here again, and we are already feeling the scorching sun.

The second week of March marked the onset of an expected cruel summer this year.Pagasa's climatology and agrometeorology unit said that the country is now in the transition period. The highest temperature recorded so far has been 36 degrees Celsius, said Pagasa's Vic Manalo III. But the country would still be having rains.

Meanwhile, school's out. Vacation is in. People are flocking to air-conditioned establishments and making out-of-town trips.

And some unwelcome company will be tagging along. So better prepare for an all-star cast of minor and major hassles such as dust, perspiration, heat exhaustion, sore eyes, diarrhea, sunburn and skin diseases.

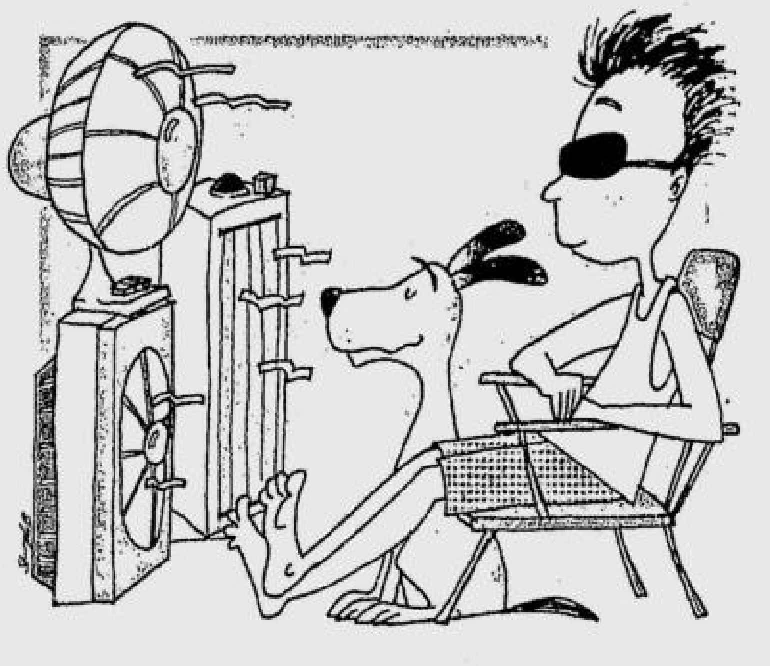
Effects of water shortage

The Department of Health said a water shortage would likely lead to irregular bathing and washing of clothes and this could result to skin rashes, allergies, skin eruptions, fungal diseases, boils and a lot more. A water shortage could also lead to doubtful sources of drinking water, which could result to diarrhea.

"We would witness cramped jail cells replete with complaints of prisoners acquiring boils and other skin allergies," said Dr. Eric Tayag, chief of the DOH's infectious diseases prevention unit.

Sun damage

Although the Filipinos' melanin pigments could protect their skin better from the ultraviolet rays of the sun than the fair-complexioned Caucasians, Tayag still advised that people refrain from exposure to direct sunlight between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



"This is still harmful to our skin," he said.

Dr. Benjamin C. Vitasa, dean of the College of Public Health of the University of the Philippines Manila, said that the elderly and those taking medications should avoid heat-related disorders.

He explained that when the climate is extremely hot and humid, people who are not used to it could develop heat stress or heat strokes. Sweating, he said, has an evaporative cooling effect, but when the moisture in the air is high—meaning it is very humid—sweat cannot evaporate. The water just rolls off so there's no cooling mechanism. You would feel hot and sweat some more.

Eventually, he said, a person loses a lot of fluids and not replacing them could lead to cardiovascular disorders.

"That's why there's such a thing as heat stroke or heat collapse. *Balikbayans* who are not used to excessive heat during summer, or people who are not acclimatized for instance, may develop heat-related disorders or heat stress," he said.

Vitasa added that although most Filipinos are not vulnerable to heat strokes since they are used to the tropical climate, it is still considered one of the most serious heat-related conditions. Heat stroke, which is a failure of the cardiovascular system, is still possible in certain situations particularly among those who "work out vigorously" or engage in "excessive physical exertions" but do not hydrate or take fluids.

"Others may faint even just by standing. If the body temperature rises more than 41 degrees, that's the precursor of heat stroke. So you actually faint, you may have a seizure and you may even die if the temperature doesn't go down," he said.

Elderly are vulnerable

Asked what type of persons would be most likely vulnerable to heat stroke, Tayag replied that it would be the elderly and those who take certain medications such as anti-psychotic drugs and those who are diabetic.

Children are also vulnerable to heat exhaustion, he said.

"It's important during summer to wear appropriate clothes. Light clothing, sando, shorts. When you go to the beach, find a shaded place especially when you feel uncomfortable," said Tayag.

"Always carry water with you," he added.

Here are the warning signs of heat stroke: You feel very hot, yet you don't perspire. Your skin is reddish and dry. You have a headache and you are irritable.

Dog bites

The DOH also monitors cases of dog bites during summer. Tayag said that unless people become responsible for their pets, there would always be victims.

Among the many summer diseases and conditions mentioned, Tayag said that what makes Filipinos distinct from other countries are the dog bites.

"Maybe, no country can beat us in terms of the cases of dog bites. We have more than 100,000 cases a year and maybe a third of these happen during the summer," he said.

Thinking skin-deep this hot season

SKIN cancer may not be one of the more prevalent cancers among Filipinos because of the strength of our melanin pigment's natural protection against harmful ultraviolet rays. But other problems related to UV rays abound.

Cataracts, for instance, are the number one cause of blindness in the Philippines. And skin specialists see a great problem among indigenous Filipinos living in mountainous areas who are "photoaging" (premature wrinkling) because of their constant exposure to sunlight.

"The sun produces ultraviolet rays with wavelengths that vary between 200 and 400 nanometers (Nm).Wavelength A is longest at 320 to 400 Nm, wavelength B is 280 to 320 and wavelength C is shortest at 200 to 280," explained Benjamin C. Vitasa, a skin specialist and the dean of University of the Philippines College of Public Health.

Vitasa said wavelength B causes skin cancer and cataracts while C wavelength C is completely absorbed by the earth's atmosphere.

Ozone layer

Only about 5 percent of wavelength B actually reaches the earth's surface because the ozone layer absorbs most of it, he said. But this protective layer is being destroyed by man-made chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Vitasa said the depletion of the ozone layer results in more UV rays reaching the earth's surface—and our skin.

"More B rays mean more skin cancer and more cataracts. We are in the 'cataract belt' since we are close to the equator, where the sun strikes the earth the fiercest. And B is very intense between 10 a.m. and to 3 p.m.," he said.

Wavelength A, he explained, is responsible for the photosensitivity reaction of those who take medicines. Vitasa said that since UV is a form of electromagnetic radiation, it contains energy. "It energizes chemicals to be more reactive and so there's a photosensitivity reaction," he said.

The right sunblock

How then do we protect ourselves from UV rays? What is the principle behind the choice of a sunblock?

Vitasa said individuals should choose the kind of sunblock depending on their "MED," or Minimal Erythema Dose. The MED is the time it takes for the skin at the back to become red when exposed to noonday sun.

For fair skin, it would take only about 10 minutes. If this is the case, then an SPF (sun protection factor) of 15 will protect this type of skin for only 15 by 10 minutes (15x10), or a total of 150 minutes.

And the longer it takes for you to become red, the less SPF you will need. *Tessa R. Salazar*

Common Summer Diseases

Chickenpox

Cause: varicella virus

Mode of transmission: Person to person by direct contact, droplet or airborne spread of fluid or secretions from infected persons. Contagious five days before and five days after the appearance of blisters.

Signs and symptoms: Weakness, muscle and joint pains, sudden onset of fever. Appearance of reddish skin lesions that later become blisters on the third to fourth day of fever.

Treatment: Chickenpox rashes will disappear in 1-2 weeks even without treatment. Give antifever drugs.

Prevention and control: Avoid crowded areas during epidemics. Isolate known cases. Vaccine is available but not recommended for public use because of its high price and considering that the disease has a very low fatality rate.

Sore eyes

Cause: virus or bacteria

Mode of transmission: Direct contact with eye secretions from an infected person. Indirectly through contaminated surfaces, instruments, eye solutions and poorly chlorinated swimming pools.

Signs and symptoms: Itchiness or irritation of the eyes. Redness and pain in the eyes. Blurring of vision. Low grade fever in some cases. Headache and general weakness.

Treatment: No specific treatment during the acute phase (1-2 weeks). Over-the-counter eye drops are not advised. If symptoms persist, the patient must see an eye doctor.

Prevention: Avoid using common towels, eye drops, eye make-up and applicators and sharing sunglasses or eyeglasses. Do not rub eyes when it is itchy or a foreign body has entered it. Wear eyeglasses or sunglasses on a windy day to protect eyes from foreign particles. During sore eyes epidemics, avoid crowded places and minimize hand-to-eye contact.

Cholera

Cause: vibrio cholerae bacteria

Mode of transmission: Eating food or drinking water contaminated with human waste.

Signs and symptoms: Sudden onset of frequent, painless, watery stools. Vomiting. Rapid dehydration (manifestation: sunken eyes, wrinkled and dry skin).

Treatment: Replace lost body fluids by giving Oral Rehydration Solution (Oresol) or a homemade solution composed of 1 tsp salt, 4 tsp sugar mixed in 1 liter of water. If diarrhea persists, consult your doctor or bring the patient to the nearest hospital. In extreme cases, cholera is a rapidly fatal disease. A healthy individual may die within 2-3 hours if no treatment is provided.

Prevention and control. Drink only potable water. If unsure, boil drinking water for 3 minutes. Keep food away from insects and rats by covering it. Wash and cook food properly. Practice sanitary disposal of human waste. Use toilet properly and keep the toilet clean. Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet and before eating. Keep surroundings clean to prevent flies and other insects and rodents from breeding.

Rabies

Cause: rabies virus

Mode of transmission: Through bite of a rabid animal or contamination of any wound or scratch with saliva containing rabies virus.

Signs and symptoms: Headache and fever, pain or numbness of bite site, delirium and paralysis, muscle spasms, hydrophobia (fear of water) and aerophobia (fear of air).

Prevention and control: Be a responsible pet owner. Have your dog immunized against rabies at 3 months old and every year thereafter. Never allow your pet dog to roam the streets. Take care of your dog: bathe it, give it clean food and provide it with clean sleeping quarters.

What to do when bitten by a dog: Wash the wound immediately with soap and water. Observe the dog for 14 days and consult your physician if any of the following occurs:

- Dog becomes wild and runs aimlessly.
- Drooling.
- Bites any moving or nonmoving object.
- Does not eat or drink.
- The dog dies within the observation period

If the dog cannot be observed (stray dog), or if suspected to be rabid, consult your physician immediately.

Source: Department of Health

Circumcision: Rite of passage

THE FILIPINO male has always associated summer with circumcision. During these hot days, boys have been traditionally entering the passage to manhood by undergoing circumcision.

But more than a traditional or religious activity, male circumcision has medical importance and benefit, studies reveal.

Circumcision is the surgical removal of the fold of the skin that normally covers the glans or the head of the male organ. This double layer of the skin, sometimes called the prepuce, is more commonly known as the foreskin. Male circumcision has been in practice for more than 3,700 years. Among its principal health advantages is that it greatly reduces the risk of urinary tract infections, especially in the first year of life, and it ensures sufficient penile hygiene. It also helps prevent of certain diseases like infection of the male organ (balanitis) and is a treatment for the inability to pull back the foreskin completely (phimosis).

Competent medical practitioners at Healthway Medical Clinics perform circumcision in the center's sophisticated day surgery suites. The clinic is a one-stop outpatient medical center housing competent family medicine physicians, specialists and subspecialists in the fields of pediatrics, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology. It has state-of-the-art laboratory and diagnostic services set in a homey and comfortable atmosphere.

UK approves refund for Xenical use

THE UNITED Kingdom's National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) has announced its decision to recommend that Roche's weight management treatment, Xenical (orlistat), remains reimbursed by the National Health Service (NHS) for weight management in overweight and obese patients.

This reconfirmation is a landmark decision and highlights the importance the UK is placing on treating excess weight as a serious medical condition and recognizing the epidemic that excess weight has now become. Since its UK launch in September 1998, Xenical has been available on the NHS.

Xenical is a unique weight management treatment that acts by preventing fat from being absorbed in the gut. Xenical not only helps patients lose weight, it also encourages healthier eating habits and in the process helps them maintain their weight loss.

Worldwide, it is estimated that 100 million people are clinically overweight, with the number rising so fast that the World Health Organization (WHO) recently declared that obesity has become a global epidemic.

Such an epidemic poses a serious threat to public health due to the increased risk of associated health problems, including type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and hypertension.

Studies with Xenical have demonstrated that twice as many patients taking the drug achieve 10 percent weight loss compared to diet alone. In overweight and obese patients who also suffer from type 2 diabetes, its use is associated with significant improvements in blood sugar control. Data also show that Xenical can improve risk factors for cardiovascular disease, such as serum lipid profiles and blood pressure.

Xenical prevents dietary fat absorption by about 30 percent. It is well tolerated and it does not act on the central nervous system unlike other weight loss medications. Since it was first marketed in 1998, there have been more than 8.5 million patient treatments with Xenical worldwide.

Trianon promotes 'pro-life, for life'

TRIANON International, a source of high-quality vitamins and food supplements in the local market, launched its new slogan "Pro-life, for life," reflecting the company's mission to provide adequate health care information, help prevent diseases and uplift the quality of life of Filipinos.

"We all dream of a healthy life, free from any debilitating illness. We aim for Trianon to play a role in helping prevent these illnesses," said Francis Castillo, Trianon business development manager.

Trianon is the exclusive Philippine representative of HealthCo International, which is one of the leading manufacturers of vitamins and food supplements in the United States. Consumer groups and vitamin magazines have consistently cited its products as high quality and reasonably priced. In 1999, the prestigious VITY Awards gave eight of HealthCo's products individual citations for being the best-selling brand in independent health food stores in the United States.

Dr. James Balch, world-renowned health counselor and author of the best selling book "Prescription for Nutritional Healing," recommends HealthCo's products, which are marketed under the NOW brand in the United States.

HealthCo's products, marketed locally under the Trianon label, are available as over-the-counter products at leading drug stores nationwide.

Providing better dental care for Filipinos

BY REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC

FOR MANY Filipinos, there is only one reason to see a dentist, and that is when their teeth are aching and they want these removed—a mindset that doesn't speak well of the state of the nation's oral health.

According to a recent survey of the Department of Health, 92.4 percent of Filipinos have dental caries, 78.3 percent suffer from gum diseases and 77 percent do not visit the dentist on a regular basis.

"These are facts that have not changed for the last 20 years and there are many reasons for it, but primarily it is because there is a lack of adequate dental advocacy and education in this country," said Dr. Edwin S. Valera, chief resident dentist of Dental Studies Center for Asia (Dental Asia).

Valera added that dental visits cause much anxiety to many people because they go to the dentist only when they are experiencing so much pain already.

The challenge to the dental society, said Valera, is to educate parents on the importance of introducing their children to the dentist as soon as after all their kid's teeth have come out.

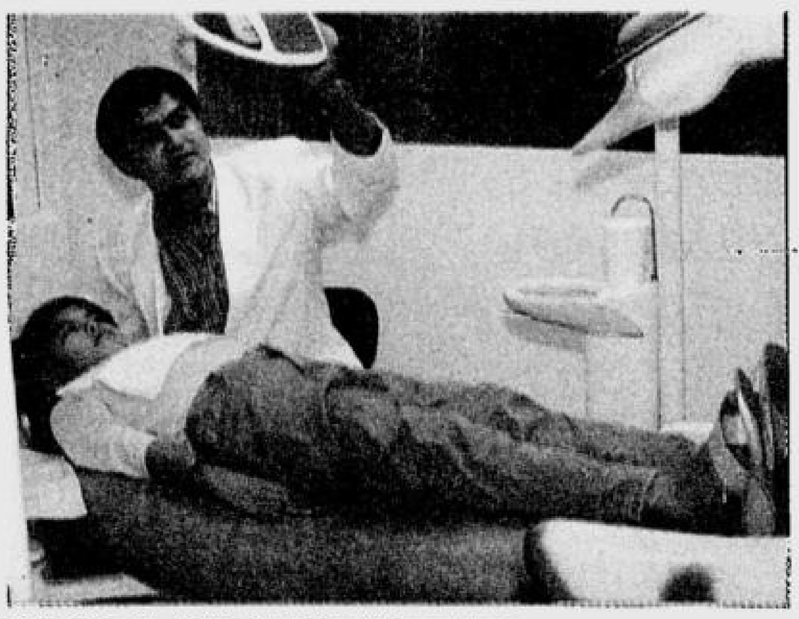
"Whenever possible, parents should bring their kids to the dentist and let them observe what's going on inside the clinic. This way, children will not have any fear of the dentist and will more likely develop good dental habits that will remain through life," Valera said.

Serious complications

Longer, healthier life may be possible with the help of good oral care, just as serious health complications are likely to develop when dental care is abandoned.

Clinical evidence shows that gum infections may be related to several diseases like heart attacks and strokes. Recent research indicates that bacteria from infected gums routinely enter the bloodstream where they initiate hardening of the arteries, increasing the risk of stroke and heart attack.

Even if there is not enough evidence directly linking gum disease to diabetes, dentists are certain that having gum disease will worsen diabetes because insulin works less efficiently when a diabetic is fighting bacterial infection.



CHILD-friendly dentist Dr. Edwin Valera at work.

The link between gum infection and ulcer is also still unfounded, but some findings suggest that the *Helicobacter pylori bacterium*, which can cause stomach ulcers, resides in dental plaque. *H. Pylori* may migrate to the stomach and proceed to eat painful little holes.

The health of a woman's mouth may also adversely affect her pregnancy. In a study at the University of North Carolina, it was found out that mothers with periodontitis, or severe gum disease, were seven times more likely to deliver pre-term, low birth weight babies.

The good news, however, is that gum disease and other dental problems can be easily prevented. Preventive measures include brushing and flossing daily and a visit to the dentist at least once a year.

"Gum disease is a progressive process that begins with poor oral care. And because gum disease is often 'silent,' identifying it early can prevent serious complications. Your dentist can detect gum disease in the very earliest stages and take steps to treat it," assured Valera.

Preventive dental care, he said, is the thrust of Dental Asia and can be effectively realized if the public is also educated on matters of dental health.

"When the patient has some knowledge of dental health, the dentist will be more challenged to upgrade his/her skills because he/she is treating a patient who demands from the dentist more than a tooth extraction or other basic oral care services," Valera said.

He observed that most patients think all dentists are one and the same. For the information of the reading public, he enumerated the following specialties:

- Endodontists are dentists that deal with the nerves of the tooth. They perform root canal treatments as well as surgical root procedures. They may surgically remove the tip of the root or remove a root on a multirooted tooth.
- Oral surgeons are dentists that perform many aspects of surgery around the head area. They also perform biopsies and removal of tumors in the head and neck region. Most put implants in the jaw for future restorations and do complex jaw realignment surgeries.
- Orthodontists are those that straighten teeth. They analyze a mouth and surrounding bone structures and determine where the teeth should be. If there is enough room they will manipulate the teeth and bone through the use of bands, wires, elastics, headgear and other devices to achieve a balance between facial muscles and teeth. They treat children as well as adults.
- Pedodontists are pediatric dentists. They focus on treating younger patients—from one or two years to young adults. They can detect early on if there are problems with decayed, missing, crowded or malpositioned teeth and correct them. They also spot signs of child abuse.
- Periodontists diagnose and treat gingivitis (inflammation of the gum tissue) as well as periodontitis (gum disease). They may perform simple cleaning to complicated bone surgeries. They perform bone grafting and do soft tissue grafts to treat gum recession.
- Prosthodontists deal with simple to complicated full mouth restorations. They may be crowns, fixed bridges, dentures, implant cases, or mixed implant and fixed bridge cases. They also perform restorative procedures such as obturators after removal of cancerous portions of the mouth.
- And for those who want their teeth bleached or whitened, they may go to an esthetic or restorative dentist.

Building confidence

These specializations, Valera said, usually take two to four more years of continuing education after dental school. Dental Asia offers short programs or postgraduate courses on these specializations to help dentists acquire more knowledge and build more confidence. At Dental Asia, dentists learn new trends in oral care and at the same time practice their profession. There are both theory and hands-on application under the supervision of some of the best mentors around.

There will come a time when people will no longer have dental caries. With modern technology, natural teeth can now last a lifetime. But in the Philippines, it won't happen until people begin at a very early age to make a conscious effort to get the best dental care possible to them.

Treat of the Week

Nestlé cream

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C-1

Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor ■ EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Mango Fool

2 large mangoes, peeled & sliced into chunks
2 tbsps. orange juice
1 tsp salt
1 cup sugar or to taste
1 cup NESTLÉ CREAM
1 pc. mango, sliced into balls for garnish

Combine mango chunks, orange juice, salt and sugar in a blender. Process until smooth. Fold fruit mixture into cream. Chill for at least 2 hours. Pour into 6 dessert cups and top with a dollop of cream and mango balls for garnish.
Serves: 6

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Nestlé cream

Laurice Guillen resigns from the Directors Guild of the Philippines

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST March 26, filmmaker Laurice Guillen submitted her irrevocable resignation from the Directors Guild of the Philippines to DGPI president Joey Reyes. She is the second director to resign from the guild this month, after Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

More dynamic alternative

What had made Laurice come to this sad decision to resign from the guild that she helped put up as a more dynamic alternative to the much older Kapisanan ng mga Direktor ng Pelikulang Pilipino?

It must be noted that Laurice and Marilou are two of the country's best film directors, so their separate decisions to leave the DGPI must be taken as a significant matter, even if some members of the guild choose to pooh-pooh this development.

So, why *did* Laurice decide to resign? She says that she is "deeply disturbed by the repercussions brought upon the guild by Nic Tiongson's resignation as MTRCB chairman... and by the industry rally that was held without first conduct-

LAURICE/P.C2

GUILLEN AND ABAYA. Seperate decisions.

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GEN TXT

April Gig Guide

GENTXT and SIEMENS present ManoMission 2001, Boracay Island — 12&14
GENTXTers trooping to the pearly white beaches of Boracay will welcome summer with fun & games, dance parties & music gigs at Cocomangas. Chill out with two Sunset Sessions from 4-7 PM and enjoy a free Blue Ice Beer during two Dance Parties from 9 PM till sunrise. To join GENTXT-exclusive island activities, register at the GENTXT booth at Cocomangas on April 11, 2 PM onwards.**
>> Cocomangas, Boracay

SIEMENS mobile phones
NRK

"The Mexican", Advanced Screening — 19
(In cooperation with Magic 89.9 DWTM)
Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt star together for the first time in this romantic action-comedy flick. First 50 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting April 18 will get free tickets.
>> SM Megamall Cinema 1 - 7:30 PM

Crossover Live — 21
First 20 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting April 20 will get free tickets for a night of music with Silk and Time and a Half.
>> Boardwalk, Subic - 8:00 PM

"Someone Like You", Advanced Screening — 30
(In cooperation with Magic 89.9 DWTM)
First 50 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting April 29 will get free tickets to this romantic-comedy movie based on a novel about a young woman who dissects the conditions of her single status. Starring Ashley Judd, Greg Kinnear, and Marissa Tomei.
>> SM Megamall Cinema 11 - 7:30 PM

Special Summer Offers

Pink Patio, Boracay — WHOLE MONTH
GENTXTers get 50% off on wall-climbing.

Scubaworld, Cebu — WHOLE MONTH
Dive into the heat of summer with 50% off on diving lessons for every group of 5 GENTXTers and ₱50 off per hour on kayak rental (₱150).

Pearl Farm, Davao — WHOLE MONTH
An ultimate summer getaway awaits GENTXTers at Pearl Farm, Davao with 50% off on published room rates and 15% off on food and drinks.

New Offers

Tequila Joe's
GENTXTers cool off with a choice of free iced tea with any food purchase or free Tower of Power for a minimum ₱500 food and drink purchase.

Gotham, Malate
GENTXTers get a load of 15% off on food and drinks.

CD Warehouse
GENTXTers hum to the tune of hot music with 10% off on cash and 5% off on credit purchases.

Ayala Theaters
Pay for only 4 tickets (except on guaranteed seats) for every group of 5 GENTXTers who want to enjoy a movie at Glorietta 1, 4 and Greenbelt Theaters.

New Partners

Toby's Sports Arena
GENTXTers go athletic with 10% off on all items at Toby's Sports Arena outlet in Glorietta 2, plus one-free round at the basketball shootout area.

Executive Optical
Face the glare of the summer sun with 20%-35% off on signature frames and sunglasses (except Oakley & Rayban), 20% off on selected cosmetic colored contact lenses (Radiance & Optical Illusions from UK), 10% off on selected regular contact lenses (Dimensions & Synergy disposable contact lenses).

Nike Stadium
Enjoy 10% off on all cash and credit purchases.

Planet Sports
Get 10% off on all cash and credit purchases.

Club Fuel, Cebu
GENTXTers rev up to party music with free entrance (except on special events), plus 10% off on food and drinks.

BTB, Cebu
GENTXTers enjoy 15% off on food and beverages with minimum order worth ₱500 and free iced tea for a minimum of 1-hour billiard playing time.

*HARRISON COMMUNICATIONS is at the 4/F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for GENTXTer Cecille, flash your GENTXT card, and get your free tickets.

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Laurice Guillen resigns from the Directors Guild of the Philippines

(from page C1)

CAST OF "TANGING YAMAN." The film's success proves that the movie audience is eager to patronize films that vivify good family values

ing a proper forum where opposing views on this problem or issue could have been presented, discussed exhaustively and voted upon or resolved in a more democratic manner... I believe in artistic freedom, but not pursued in the manner that was taken."

Last Wednesday, we asked Laurice what all this meant in terms that the layman-reader could understand, and she elaborated:

Spirit of reform

She recalled that, when she and other directors broke away from the KDPP and organized the DGPI, they were motivated by the spirit of reform. Eventually, however, she realized that this goal had not been internalized by some members of the new guild.

To know what to change, you have to know what the problem is. Laurice pinpoints the main issue as the responsibility, or lack of it, of some filmmakers. The problem was brought up for discussion within the guild, but some members didn't acknowledge it.

When the DGPI withdrew from the Film Academy of the Philippines last February, Laurice and Marilou apologized for some of the movies they had made, but other guild members did not join in.

After People Power II, Laurice was one of those who signed the letter recommending Tiongson as MTRCB chair. Then came Tiongson's resignation after his being hectored by Cardinal Sin, and subsequent events quickly snowballed into something that Laurice felt she could not agree with. She explains:

"I did not agree that the movie industry should slam its door against government and religious institutions. It is the church's duty to guide people in matters of morality, as well as to lobby with government on politics and laws on anything that contradicts that morality. The church has done this on other issues like the death penalty, abortion and the war in Mindanao.

"If you sincerely believe in artistic freedom, you shouldn't close doors but should strive to listen to other people's points of view before finally making your decision—in other words, you shouldn't act unilaterally."

Soul of the people

"We have to remind ourselves that culture is the soul of the people, and art is the way it is expressed. So, we have to be linked to people, not cut ourselves off from them.

"Yes, the artist should depict harsh social realities, but he shouldn't stop there. The artist should reflect, investigate and comment on what he's uncovered.

"Pope John Paul II, who is also an artist (playwright, actor and poet) has said, 'The role of the artist is not just to show the human condition, but to uplift it! 'Like the films of Brocka—their characters are miserable, but they don't wallow in their misery, they fight—*may* triumph *pa rin ang* human spirit."

Summing up, Laurice resigned from the DGPI "because I want to disassociate myself from what I and some other people perceive to be an attack against the church, under the guise of redress against the suppression of artistic freedom.

"Within the guild, I have already said what I have to say regarding the need on filmmakers' part for more social responsibility. To push it further would already be violating the members' right to make their own choices."

> Laurice and Marilou are two of our most esteemed filmmakers, with many honors and distinctions to their names. Surely, their views must at least be listened to

Inordinate influence

We pointed out to Laurice that quite a number of people thought that Nic Tiongson was dealt with too harshly by some church leaders, and that the church wields inordinate influence on the government. Laurice agreed with the "too harshly" part but did not agree that church leaders were inordinately influential.

What about the perceived weakness of the president, who's seen by some as too willing to kowtow to big pressure groups like the church and the military? "No." Laurice retorted, "I think she's very astute."

The controversy is so tempestuous and combustible now, with both sides screaming at each other and thus shedding little real light on the important issues of morality and artistic freedom. Can genuine illumination *really* take place?

"Yes, after the smoke has cleared, there *is* the possibility of the opposing sides coming to terms with each other, with more dialogue," Laurice said.

But isn't that the problem, the church asking for dialogue now, rather than before Tiongson was read the riot act? Laurice agreed but pointed out that the church had learned valuable lessons in this regard.

Now that she's distanced herself from the directors' guild, will Laurice make any adjustments in her work as filmmaker?

"No, I'll still make movies that have something significant to say. But my next film, 'American Adobo,' is not 'Tanging Yaman.' It's more talky, about Filipinos in New York who talk about the Philippines, why they left—it's about how they look at themselves, and home.

Great sinner

"Next, I'm doing Jerry B. Gracio's script, 'Santa, Santita,' for Star Cinema. It appealed to me because it shows that God calls on whomever He pleases, even if that person is a great sinner, like the title character."

And, after that? Laurice is coming up with her biggest series of dramas to date—"Decalogo," separate productions on the 10 Commandments, no less! Each will be set in contemporary times, and will ask ethical questions related to each commandment.

What about her relationship with other filmmakers, now that she's decided to go it alone? Laurice says that she hopes some of her friends will still be there, even if they no longer belong to the same guild.

And, on the comment we've heard ("Who is she to tell us what to do, what films to make?")? "OK, I won't anymore, I'll just do what *I* have to do."

What has the exceptional success of "Tanging Yaman" taught her? "The audience is still there, they just haven't been going to the movies. But they *are* looking for films with values, because, the more problems they have, the more they feel they need guidance.

"But they don't want to be preached to. Rather, it should be done by *sharing* people's lives and how they affect the audience's. Other families shared in the story of the family in 'Tanging Yaman,' and they liked that—even my friends who are Born Again Christians.

Vicious cycle

Finally, is there a way out of the seemingly endless vicious cycle of sex films and the resulting clampdowns? Laurice: "Yes, with more positive values. It starts in the home, and then in schools. Arts and culture should be made a part of the curriculum rather than extra-curricular, so people step equating them with entertainment.

"In addition, we should reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism. You don't have to be elected to serve. Start somewhere with something pure. Just being a witness—that's good, too.

"All of us should do something in our own spheres, even if it's something small—It's clearer to me now what I have to do in mine."

We hope that other filmmakers won't dismiss Laurice's resignation the way one director snidely did Marilou's earlier leave-taking ("Godbye—and good riddance!). Even if the DGPI chooses to ignore these two resignations, the public won't.

Laurice and Marilou are two of our most esteemed filmmakers. Only last week at the Urian awards, two of Marilou's movies were cited as among the best produced in the '90s, and Laurice won the Best Director award for her work on "Tanging Yaman."

Surely, their views must at least be heard. Even if you end up not agreeing with them, *listen*.

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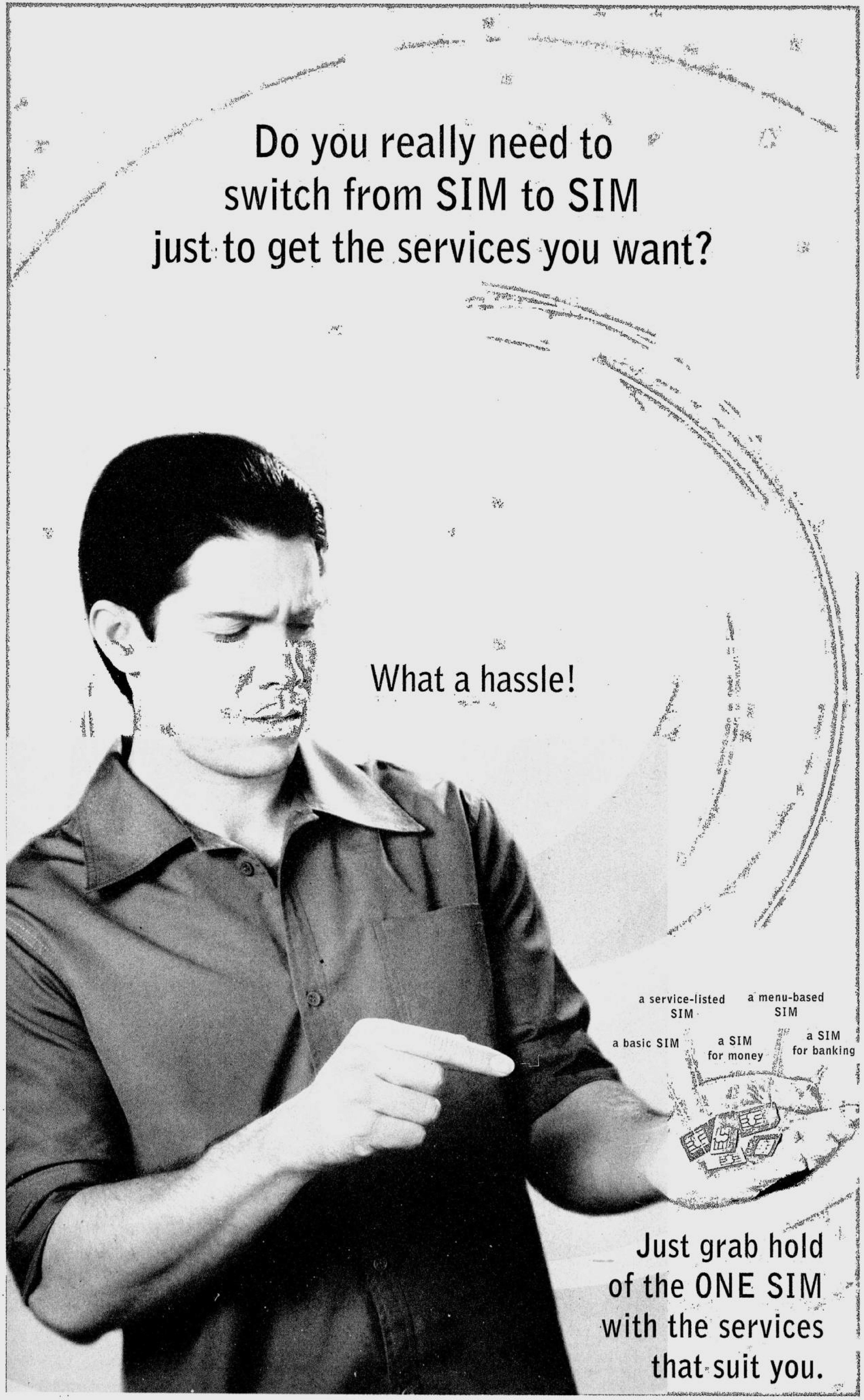
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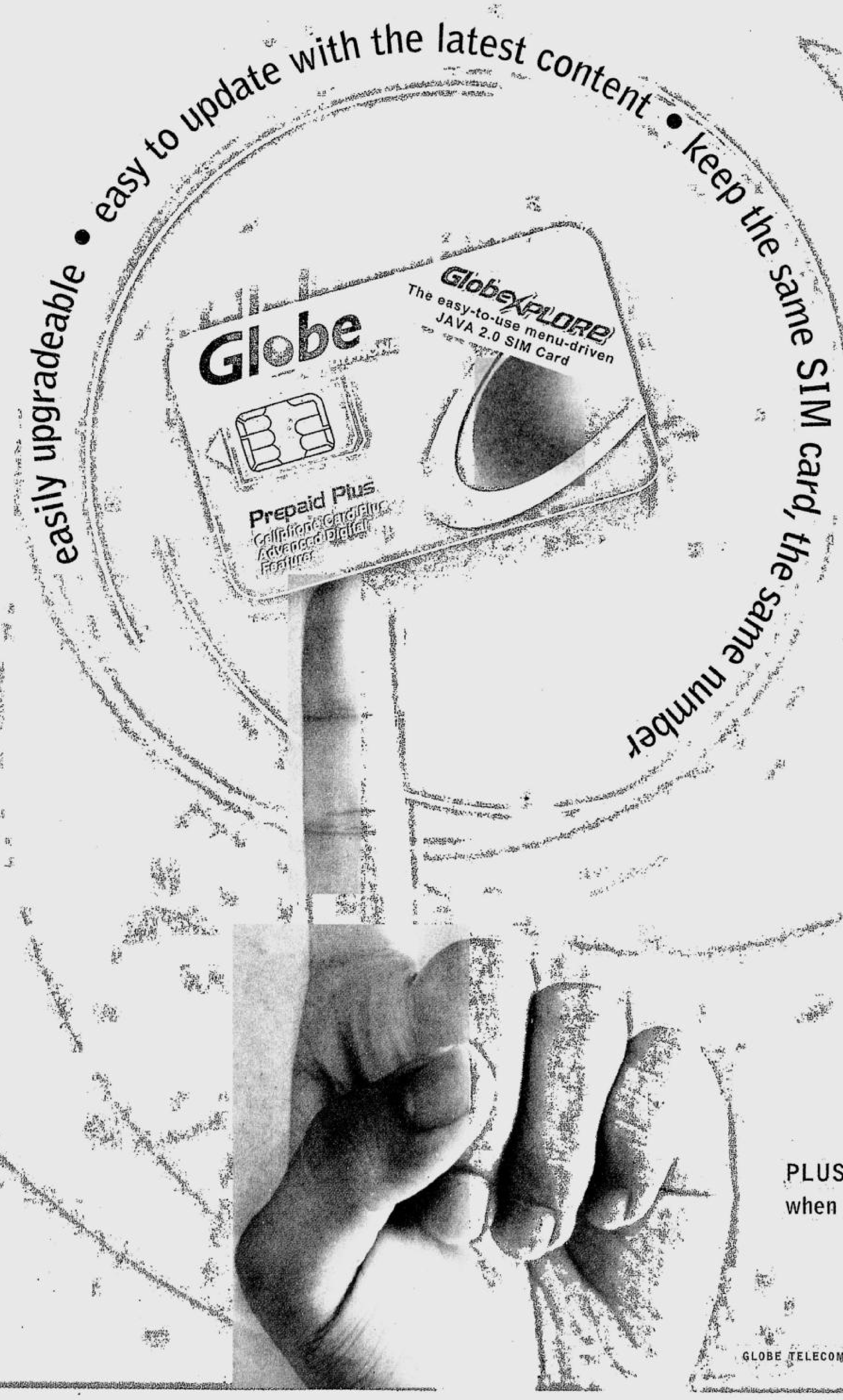
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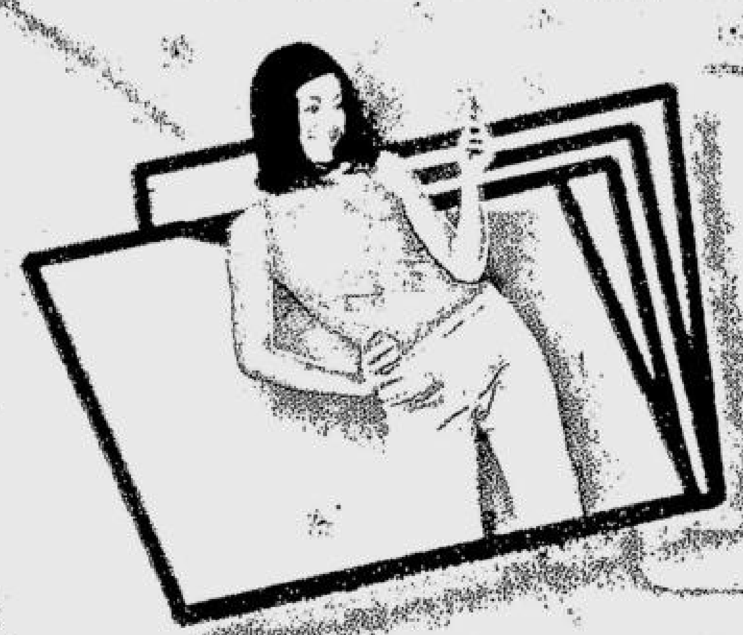

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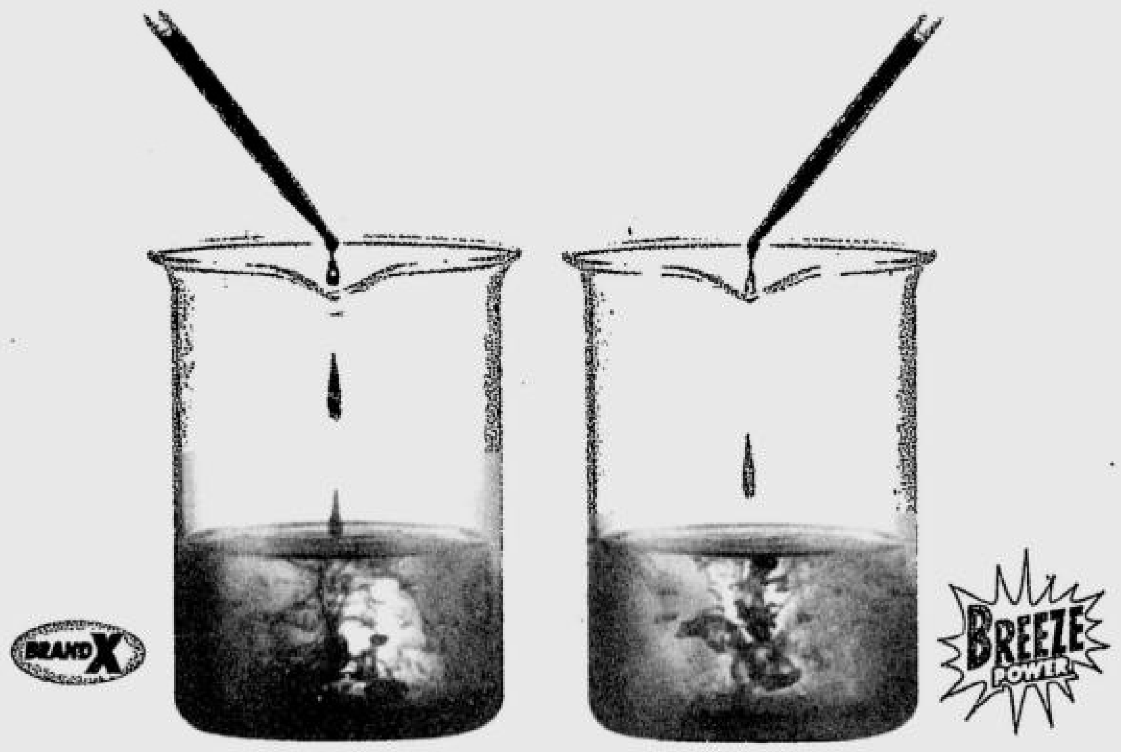
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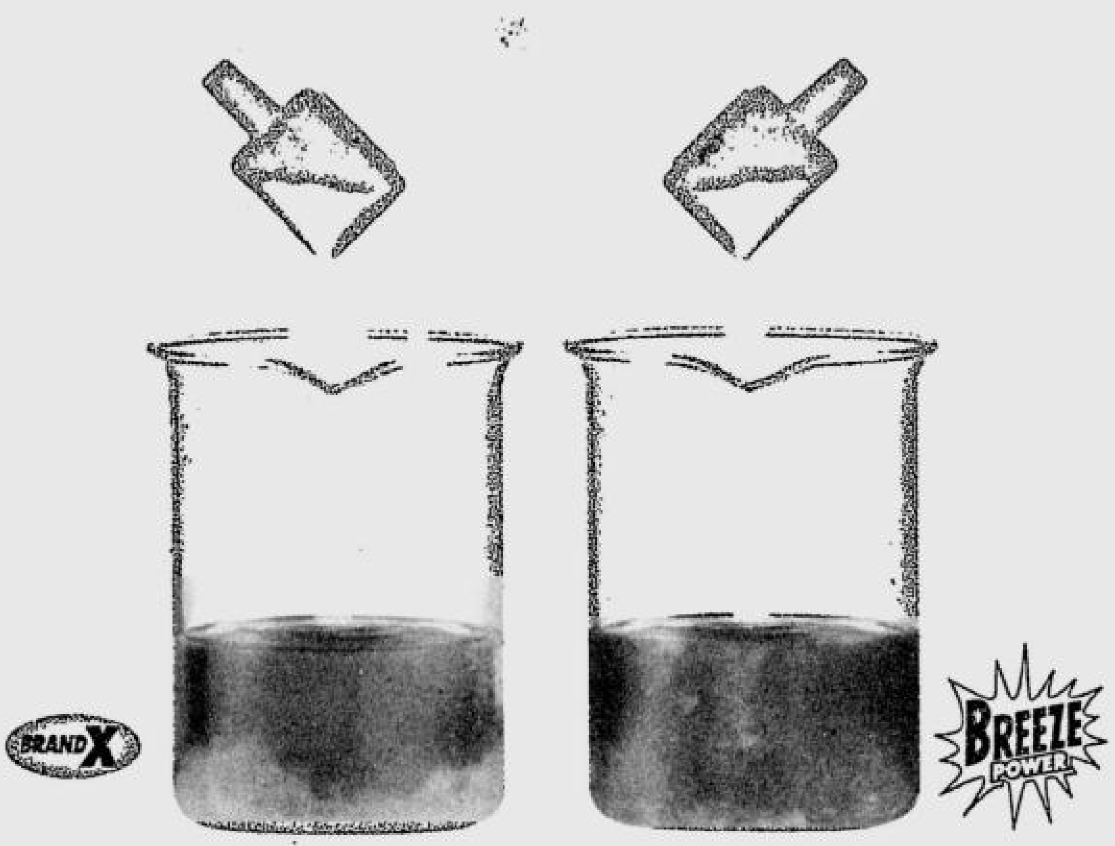
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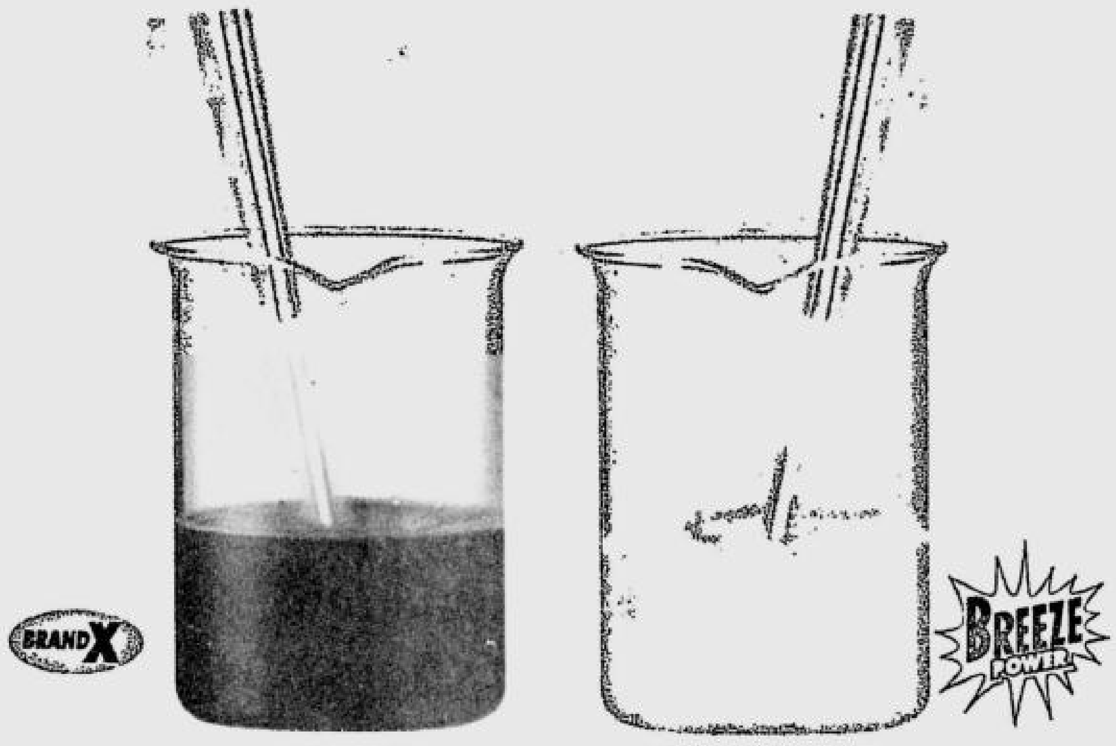
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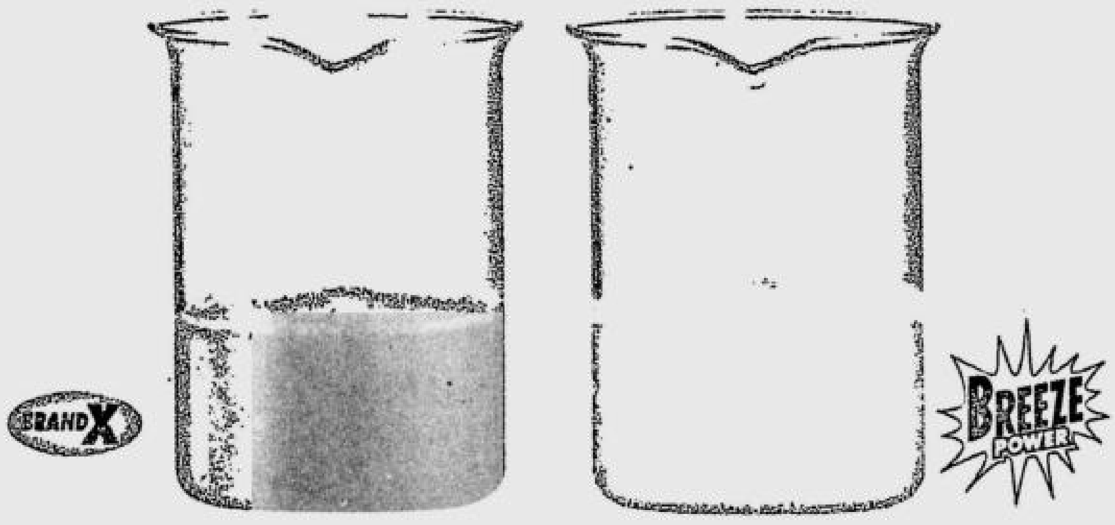
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Doña Buding joins the political fray

After 17 years, she's on the comeback trail, now politicized and imbued with a social consience. Her new show is 'an autopsy of the circus that is Philippine politics,' Inventor says

By Bibsy M. Carballo

INVENTOR: Her "signature" character is back with a vengeance.

MANY people over 40 will remember a character named Doña Buding who reigned in the '80s with her jewelry and her social climbing. Her shows were always full-packed, fodder for the society columnists, cause for anxiety of those she might possibly satirize.

Long vacation

She was so successful that she eclipsed the artist Nanette Inventor, who found herself referred to as Doña Buding even in private. This was perhaps the reason why Nanette decided to send the character away on a long vacation.

But now, after 17 years, Doña Buding is back with a vengeance, politicized and imbued with a social conscience, says Nanette.

"She is throwing her diamond-studded fan into the political area because she couldn't turn a deaf ear after the series of scandals involving the actor-who-became-president; after the brouhaha regarding the jueteng money, mansions, mistresses, the senate impeachment trial. Buding wants to make it known, once and for all, that she is going to try to run this country!" declares Nanette.

Put together by the original tandem of writer Joey Reyes and director Tony Espejo, "Buding 4 Senator" is scheduled at the Music Museum, on April 20 and 21, and May 11 and 12, and at On Stage in Greenbelt May 2 and 3, and May 9 and 10, just in time to provide a primer for the elections.

Buding, or Ms Maria Leonilla Evaporada Casinday viuda de Ford, is running for the Senate under her own political party, Partido ng mga Umasenso sa Tigbakang Aksiyon (acronym: PUTA) Her battle cry is "Magkano Ka?" and she refuses to be affiliated with any of the *trapos* (traditional politicians) or the *guapos* (genuine alternative politicos).

Excited

Nanette feels fully charged and excited about bringing Buding back to the scene. "The startling metamorphosis of Doña Buding from social butterfly to *sosyal* political activist offers a cathartic experience for candidates and voters, a spoof on the political goings-on during elections, and an autopsy of the circus that is Philippine politics," she says.

Days after announcing the show, director Espejo reports that he has already gotten reservations for the entire run. We think Buding will be so successful in her campaign that people would actually vote for her in the elections," he grins.

What can one expect from the show? Reyes says, "She will talk about the deposed president (*"Pinagtangkaan rin niya ako... Bumigay ako. Pero* chicken feed *lang ang binigay niya"*), the wife (*"Matagal ko nang kilala yang si Doktora... kahit noong panahon na may ilong pa siya..."*), and the mistresses (*"Kaya lang nagpatayo si Laarni ng Boracay dahil inggit sa aking Matabungkay"*).

"She will also bash the senatorial candidates. And, most of all, she will reveal her utmost secrets about how she used to "beat up GMA and push her into the Pampanga river when (they) were little girls cavorting in Guagua."

Nanette's Buding is ageless, weightless and timeless, and since she's joining the political hula-hoop, nobody will be spared by her sharp tongue, offers Nanette.

Recalling the scenario for stand-up comedy 15 years ago, Nanette says it was delivered through television via shows like "Penthouse Live" and "Champoy." "Now, if you want to catch the work of a stand up comic, you could go to comedy clubs like Library, Punchline, Oh Bar or Mr. Melody."

Indeed, stand-up comedy has come of age, although the gay artists have been hogging the limelight. Still, Nanette feels that stand-up comedy has no sexual preferences.

"As long as you have the gift to articulate thoughts that people recognize but never have verbalized through social commentary, political satire, or even battle of the sexes routine, then you've earned the right to be a stand-up comic," she stoutly maintains.

Satirical sitcoms

As for political humor, Nanette points to satirical sitcoms on television like "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata," "Idol ko si Kap," "Ispup," "Last Fool Show" and "Kiss Muna" as having contributed greatly to the propagation of political satire.

"With regards to stand-up *politicos*," she says, "I have yet to see a show like Johnny Carson's on Philippine television, which offered political commentaries which could be shocking, to some a revelation, to others offensive."

"Budding 4 Senator" introduces two othe. characters—Drago, her trusted aide-de-camp driver, all brawn, rumored to be her lover; and Boni, her dance instructor ex-hosto from Japan who claims to have had Tessie Oreta as a student. He is a law graduate with political ambitions, and acts as Buding's political adviser.

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LATEST album from the Jesuit Music Ministry.

ONE night in the seminary on the Ateneo de Manila campus, Jesuit musician Fr. Manoling Francisco sat at his piano to play an unfinished song for Fr. Johnny Go. The two had collaborated on songwriting before, like "Pilgrim's Theme" and "Far Greater Love," two songs for which Fr. Johnny provided the lyrics.

Perfect

After hearing the first few strains, Fr. Johnny remarked, "Sounds like a song perfect for Lea Salonga," Fr. Manoling laughed and confessed that he really had Lea in mind when he began creating the music.

Right then and there, the two Jesuits, both self-confessed admirers of Lea, decided to write that song as if Lea would actually sing it—even if they both knew that there was probably no way Lea Salonga would record their song.

After the song was completed, it remained in the files of the Jesuit Music Ministry for a couple of years. Then last year, Fr. Johnny casually mentioned the song to Narciso Chan, BMG Sales Manager, who suggested that Fr. Manoling e-mail Lea to express their request. Lea quickly responded and promised to listen to the song.

Tribute

Late last year, when Lea came back to Manila to star in "Miss Saigon," a demo tape of the song was sent to Lea through her brother Gerard, who was working with the Jesuits on a tribute to Fr. Eddie Hontiveros, one of the pioneers of Filipino liturgical music.

To the delight of the songwriters, Lea liked the song and agreed to record it. Gerard was immediately requested to make the musical arrangement. On the night before she left for New York, Lea recorded the song "Something More,"fulfilling its songwriters' dream.

Anyone who listens to the song will know why the song is truly a dream come true. Lea's moving performance evokes our deepest desire for the "something more" that we seek in our lives, something we often forget in the daily rush of things.

Title track

"Something More" is the title track of the latest album from the Jesuit Music Ministry. Newly recorded, this latest collection of Jesuit songs is titled "Something More: Songs for Skeptics" and is available at all BMG outlets. It is dedicated to His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as a cardinal.

Also featured in the album are Ariel Rivera (also courtesy of BMG Records), Noel Cabangon, and Jose Mari Chan (courtesy of Universal Records), Joining them are the stable of artists of JMM: The Bukas Palad Music Ministry, Hangad, and the Himig Heswita and Friends.

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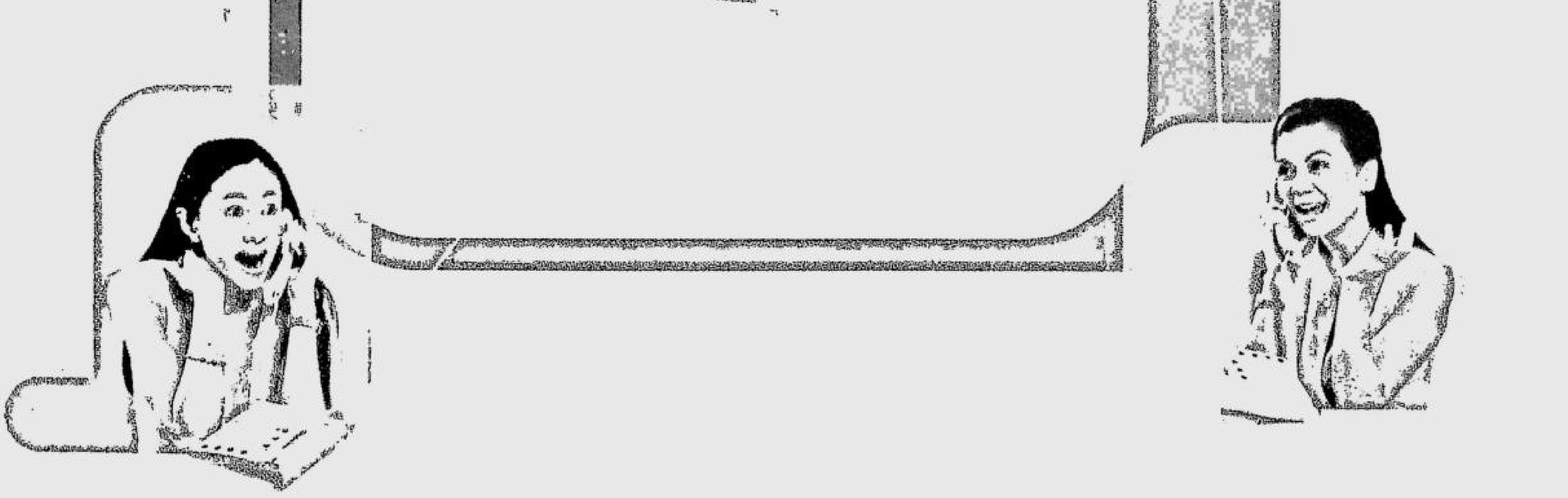

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Saturday SPECIAL

‘Exit Wounds’ creates new action sub-genre

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Say what you will about Steven Seagal, the man knows how to kill people.

Terrorist

One of Seagal's first scenes in the new movie "Exit Wounds" goes something like this: Seagal, as tough-guy Det. Orin Boyd, approaches a terrorist disguised as a delivery man.

Boyd: "Excuse me."

Terrorist looks at him.

Seagal shoots him about 50 times.

That's the first of several dozen casualties who fall to Seagal's seemingly limitless torrent of bullets over the next few minutes, in which Seagal saves the life of the vice president.

Interestingly, the vice president had delivered a fiery speech about gun control just minutes before the attack.

Now what does that mean? Is the film saying that a weak-willed gun-control advocate has to be saved by the very firepower he decries? Or that free access to weapons increases the deadliness of radical fringe groups?

Academic deconstructionists, knock yourselves out.

The shoot-'em-up scene seems designed simply to introduce the bloody tactics of Seagal's detective, who—believe it or not—is considered a maverick by his superiors. Seen as reckless, he is busted down in rank and sent to a new precinct after the attack.

Okay, pretty stupid. But plot isn't what this movie's about.

Aficionado

To the action-movie aficionado, the only important thing is whether Seagal can escape from a group of baddies while handcuffed inside an overturned van that's rocketing along on its roof toward a busy intersection.

How he gets into that situation is of secondary importance.

SEAGAL. Bloody tactics.

"Exit Wounds" is never really surprising, but its action scenes are thrilling and the story of corrupt, drug-dealing cops rings true-to-life—to a degree, of course. It's like a cartoon version of Los Angeles' Rampart scandal, if Chief Bernard C. Parks tried to clean up the problem by blowing up helicopters with a machine gun.

With this movie and their previous effort, "Romeo Must Die," director Andrzej Bartkowiak and producer Joel Silver are creating a new action sub-genre that blends hip-hop and kung-fu styles.

They even hired a rapper for Seagal's co-star: DMX plays a rich thug named Latrell Walker, who (wink, wink) is not all he seems.

DMX performs the fight stunts well enough but has a perpetually sullen look on his face, pouting through scenes like he just wants to go home and sit in a closet.

The character is a self-made millionaire who immerses himself in Detroit's drug trade for mysterious reasons, and Seagal justifiably considers him an enemy for most of the movie.

Same side

They have to kick the stuffing out of each other several times before coming to the conclusion that they're on the same side.

The real pleasure in the movie comes from spotting certain visual clues that the camera fixes on—a garment worker's blade, an exhaust pipe, a glass wall—and trying to guess how the heroes will use these items to skewer the enemy.

As far as rogue-cop movies go, "Exit Wounds" isn't as good as "Dirty Harry" or "Die Hard," but it's certainly better than Seagal's crummy 1994 directorial effort, "On Deadly Ground." "Exit Wounds" is a return to form for Seagal, whose recent work has been lackluster. He has even dropped some weight and lost his ponytail for his comeback.

If the Oscar-nominated martial-arts fantasy "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is a gourmet dinner, "Exit Wounds" is fast food: a satisfying, guilty pleasure. *AP*

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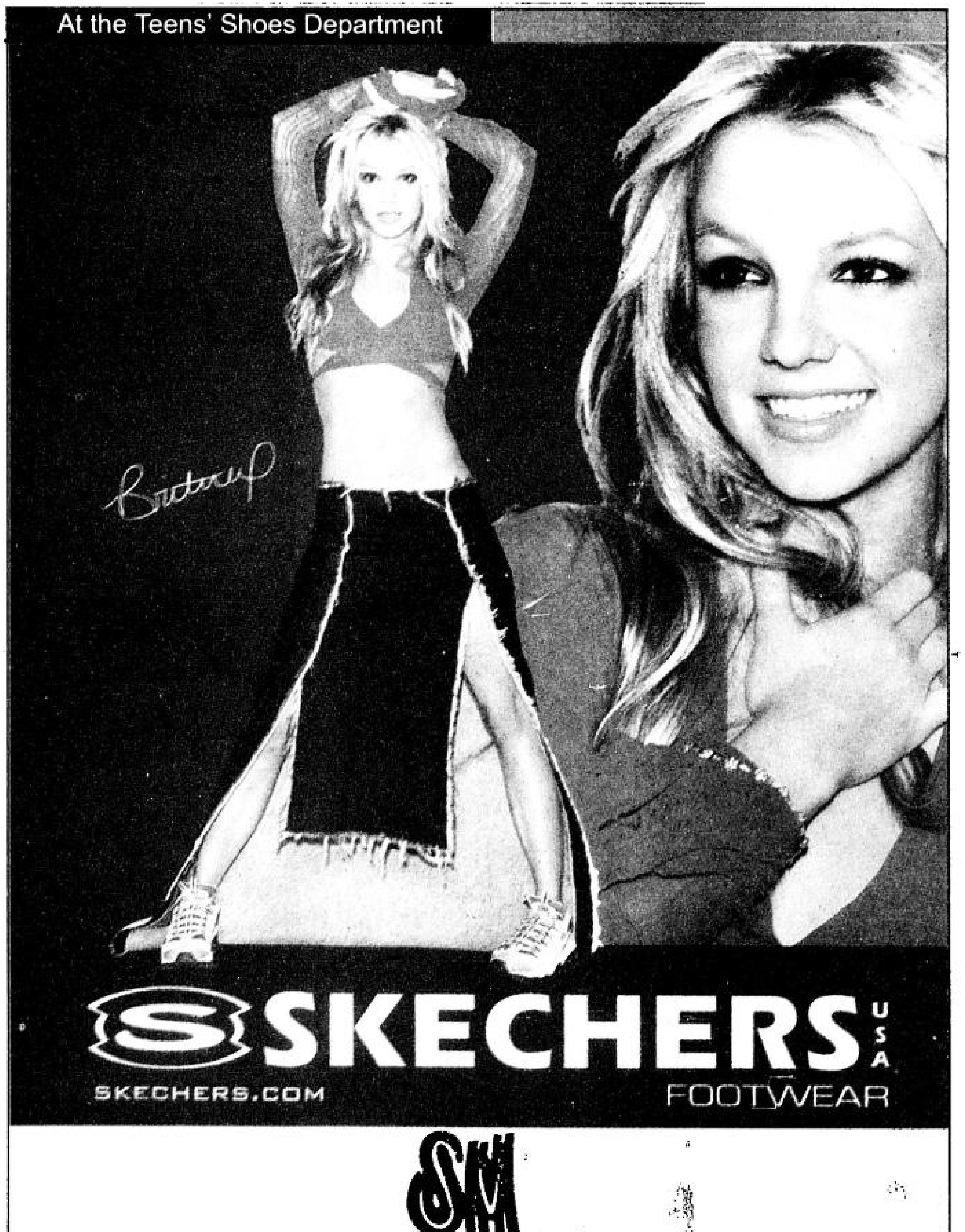

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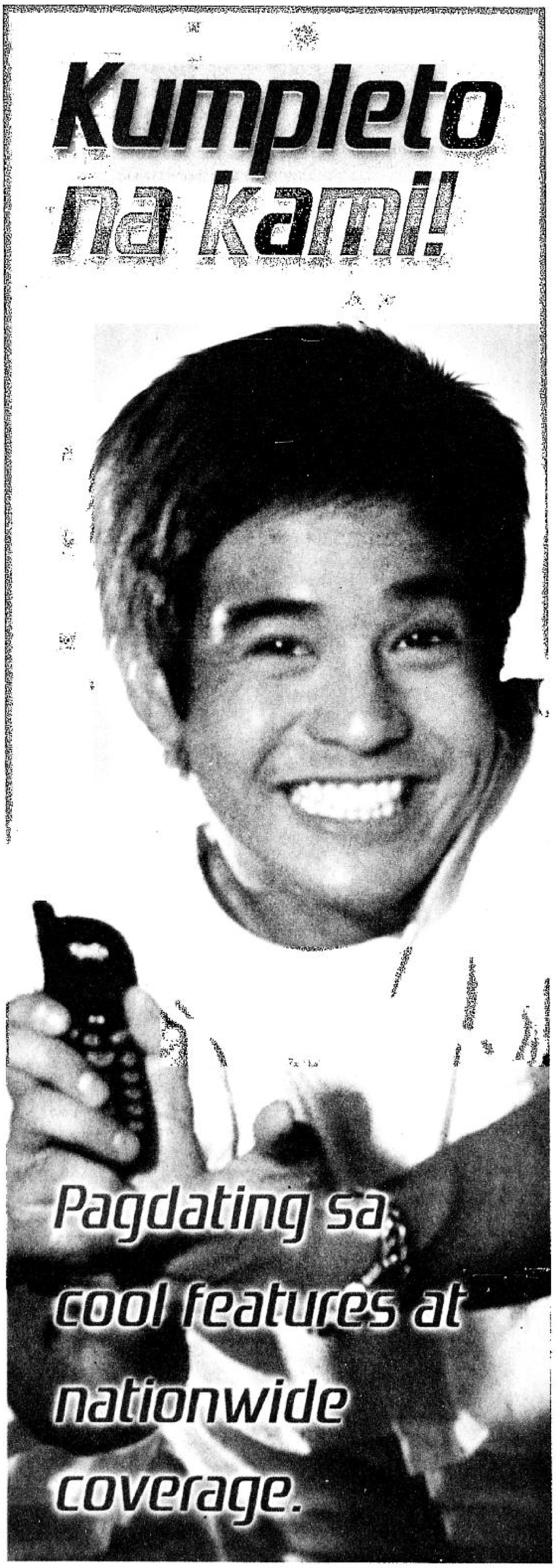
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Pinky Marquez sees the (candle)light

By Andy Bais

WHAT'S keeping singer Pinky Marquez busy these days? Candle-making! She's so enamored by her new love that, if she has no singing engagement or hosting jobs to attend to, she is in her working area at home—melting and molding wax to add to her increasing number of specialty candles.

Her "love affair" with candles started barely two months ago, after she and her friends attended a two-day workshop under Eliza Bautista where they learned the basics of candle-making.

New obsession

Determined to learn more about her new obsession, she bought books on candle-making. Shortly after, she found herself buying all the materials that she needed –the wax, molds, additives, dyes, etc.

And it didn't take long before her "investments" bore fruit. She's already receiving orders for her one-of-a-kind specialty candles.

"What's important is, I'm having fun making candles and getting paid for it at the same time," Pinky gushes. "It's so addicting! Your imagination can run wild and the only limit is when you run out of ideas. You can create candles in different colors, shapes and scents, depending on their uses and where you plan to place them," she exclaims.

Pinky's candles are mostly of the decorative type. They come in various sizes, colors and shapes.

She has already started experimenting on using indigenous materials in decorating her candles. These include dried flowers, leaves, herbs, seeds and even marbles. "Actually, it's so funny, everywhere I go, I see other materials that can go with my candles," she adds.

MULTI-COLORED patterns liven up a table setting.

Specifications

She calls her candles "specialty" candles because they are one-of-a-kind. She's open to the idea of her going to the homes of her would-be-clients so she can create candles based on their specifications, especially if the clients want their candles to blend with their home decor. Her candles are variously perfect for bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, bathrooms, and kitchens.

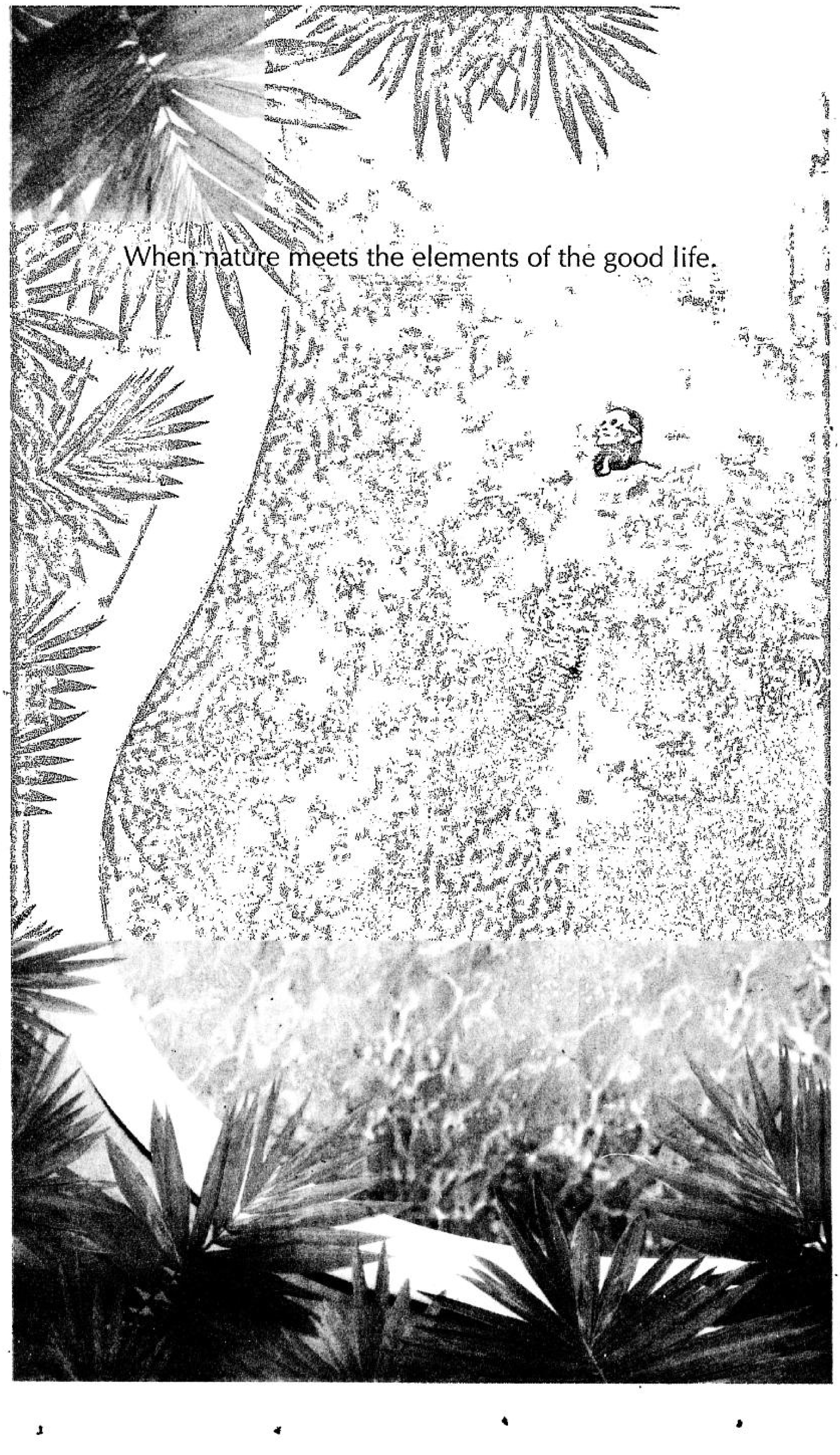
PINKY (second from left) with close friends who share her interest in candle-making, Cathy Castañeda, Fanny and Anne David.

"My candles can transform any gloomy room into something mysterious or romantic, depending on one's mood at the moment, " she winks.

Where does she draw her inspiration? "Well, I love candles, especially the scented ones, because I want my house to smell good. I also love to look at beautiful things. My inspiration could have also come from our upbringing because my mother loves to decorate a lot.

"I also get ideas from books and magazines and from the internet. But I always incorporate my own creative inputs in the candles that I make so they become unique,"

PINKY/p.D3



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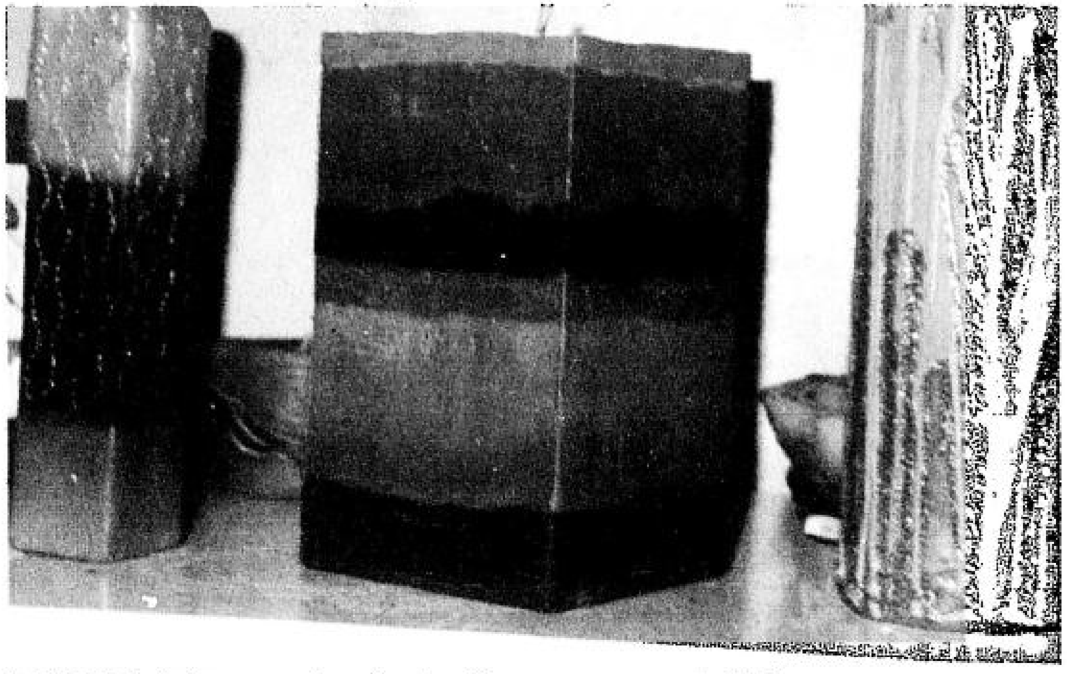
For Announcement Purposes Only

Pinky Marquez sees the (candle)light

(From page D2)

she beams.



A CANDLE design inspired by twilight at sea.

Creative juices

Pinky shares that her creative juices are at their best early in the morning or late at night when it is peaceful. And she hastens to add that she can't work without her favorite classical music playing in the background. "*Kaya* , I'm thankful to my friend Mon David for lending me his classical CDs," she says.

She confides that she now admires every candle that she sees because she knows the hard work that has gone into making it. "*Nagkasunog-sunog na ang kamay ko* because of the hot wax, *pero bale wala ang lahat* once I see the beautiful finished product," she shares.

Despite the occasional burns, she describes candle-making as both a relaxing and therapeutic activity. "Even if I work the whole day, I never get bored and I don't get tired. It's really a different experience when you enjoy what you're doing," she enthuses.

What are her suggestions to those who plan to go into candle-making? "One must have the desire, then he has to learn the process, and then try to experiment. If your friends like your creations, then go on with it. In my case, my mom is my number one critic and has become my number one fan as well. She's as excited as I am to see my latest creations.

Dangerous

"Candle-making can be dangerous, so if you are not that careful, don't go into it because it requires close supervision. As in other areas of artistic endeavor, it requires you to be obsessive and passionate. These are necessary traits in order to create truly beautiful candles," she observes.

Pinky and her friends are planning to meet once every two weeks to share new ideas among themselves and at the same time make candles together. They also plan to teach in the future, so they can share what they've learned.

She admits that her being a celebrity is a big plus in the selling of her candles. But she wants to be known for her own style in candle-making. Pinky is grateful to some kind souls who have guided her in latest endeavor. One of them is the owner of Craft Store (located at the ground floor of Robinsons Galleria) who taught her new ideas and techniques not only in candle-making but in other crafts as well.

Pinky's collection of specialty candles is now on display at Treasures of the East at Gremel bldg, Makati Avenue c/o Paulette Cancio. It will also be displayed soon at Garden Blooms at Rockwell Powerplant, Makati City. Interested? Call (02) 413-2034 or (0917) 441-0911.

A LAVENDER-SCENTED CANDLE. Photos show Pinky (right) and her two children (left).

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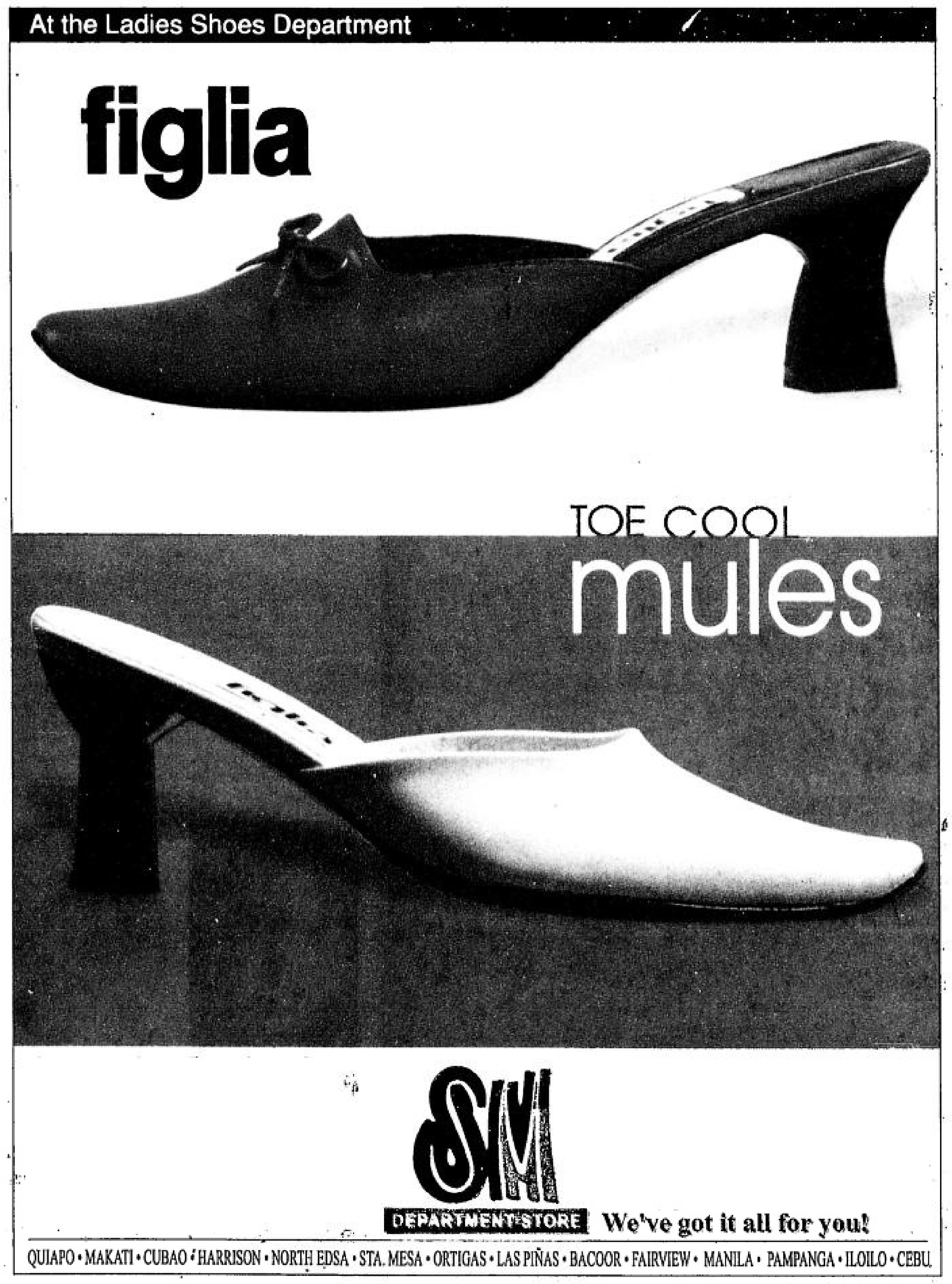
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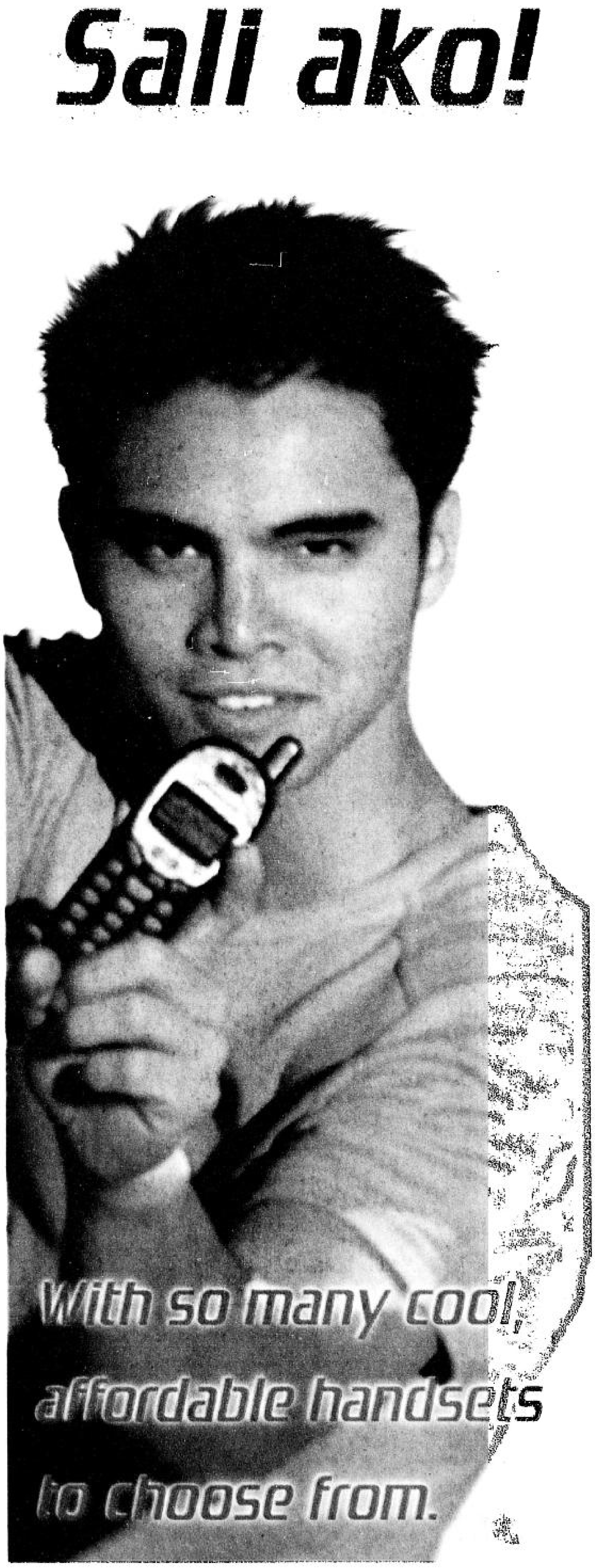
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ORSON Welles' stunning film, "Citizen Kane," lost out to "How Green Was My Valley."

Some of Hollywood's best snubbed by Oscar

By Lawrence Kootnikoff

LOS ANGELES—The Academy Awards symbolize the best in cinema, the pinnacle of achievement in the movie arts — right?

Passed over

Well, most of the time. Other times some of the greatest pictures, performances and directors of all time were passed over by Oscar, in favor of others now largely forgotten.

Everyone has their favorite list, but most seem to start at the same place: 1941, when a young Orson Welles made his stunning directing and acting debut with "Citizen Kane."

The classic, now widely viewed by critics as perhaps the greatest American film ever, lost out to — "How Green Was My Valley."

Welles himself lost the best acting Oscar to Gary Cooper ("Sergeant York") and had to settle for best screenplay.

Eleven years later "High Noon," directed by frequent Oscar "bridesmaid" Stanley Kramer, lost the Academy shootout to Cecil B. DeMille's "The Greatest Show on Earth," a movie critic Philip French of the London Observer calls an "empty offering of stale bread and circuses."

The most recent example occurred in 1998, when — after Miramax Studios' furious and controversial promotional campaign — "Shakespeare in Love" won over critically lauded "Saving Private Ryan."

Popularity contest

The Oscars "have always been a popularity contest," says Barry Koltrow, film critic for the Orange County Register.

"In the case of 'Saving Private Ryan' Miramax did a great job," Koltrow added, calling "Shakespeare's" victory "a travesty."

But Timothy Gray, managing editor of Hollywood bible Variety, says those with the benefit of hindsight shouldn't be too hard on Oscar. The awards, Gray says, are as much a product of their time as the movies themselves.

"Movies are like little time capsules," he told AFP. "It gives you an idea where people's heads were at the time."

"If you take a movie like 'Greatest Show on Earth' or 'Gigi' (nine Oscars in 1958, including best pic), those films wouldn't even be made today, much less win best picture."

"But at that time people loved those movies," he says.

The same was true of "How Green Was My Valley," a sentimental family tale set in a 19th century Welsh coal-mining village. "It was very

SOME/ p.D5

Too much, too soon

By Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL show biz treats most newcomers poorly, keeping them on the shelf for years, possibly because they aren't all that good-looking or talented, but certainly because they don't have the right connections.

Special attention

There are some happy and lucky exceptions, however, young comers who are singled out for special attention and quickly given that all-important big break only a short time after they enter show biz.

Take Cogie Domingo. He's still in his teens, but he's already played significant roles in several movies, and is being given an even bigger build-up this year.

Janet McBride is another fortunate newcomer. Right after her attention-calling role in "Tanging Yaman," the fresh-faced Filipino *balikbayan* from Australia now co-hosts a daily show, "Talk TV," with the more experienced likes of Christine Bersola, Julius Babao and Ryan Agoncillo. Lucky girl!

Sidekick

Dancer-turned-comedian Vhong Navarro is in great demand as a "sidekick" in the movies. After he clicked in "Spirit Warriors" during the last Metro filmfest, Vhong was tapped to play Robin Padilla's sparring partner and comic relief in the recent action-comedy film "Ooops, Teka Lang, Diskarte Ko 'To."

These three young talents appear to have everything going for them—but some of their performances indicate that they're being given the big star treatment too soon for comfort.

Cogie is handsome and earnest, but his performance as a teen convict in last December's "Deathrow" wasn't convincing.

First indication

The first indication that he wasn't going to come up with a really believable and empathetic performance came quite early: when he was "roughly" given a haircut to conform with prison regulations, the barber did a token job of it, snipping only a few tufts here and there, apparently so as not to ruin Cogie's dashing good looks.

But the point wasn't that his character was "cute," but that in fact he was so manhandled by the unenlightened prison system that he should end up looking practically scalped after that supposedly brutish haircut. That would have made the audience feel strongly for him, and to care about his survival and vindication in that hellish jail.

Shallow

Well, that didn't happen and Cogie remained "cute"—and shallow. Another turn-off was his being made to cry too often in the course of the movie.

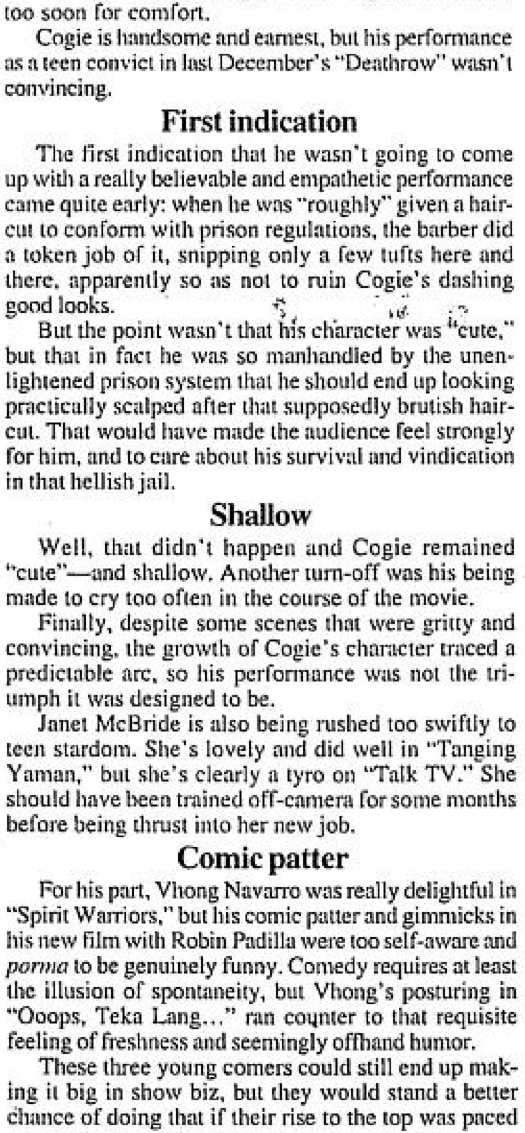
Finally, despite some scenes that were gritty and convincing, the growth of Cogie's character traced a predictable arc, so his performance was not the triumph it was designed to be.

Janet McBride is also being rushed too swiftly to teen stardom. She's lovely and did well in "Tanging Yaman," but she's clearly a tyro on "Talk TV." She should have been trained off-camera for some months before being thrust into her new job.

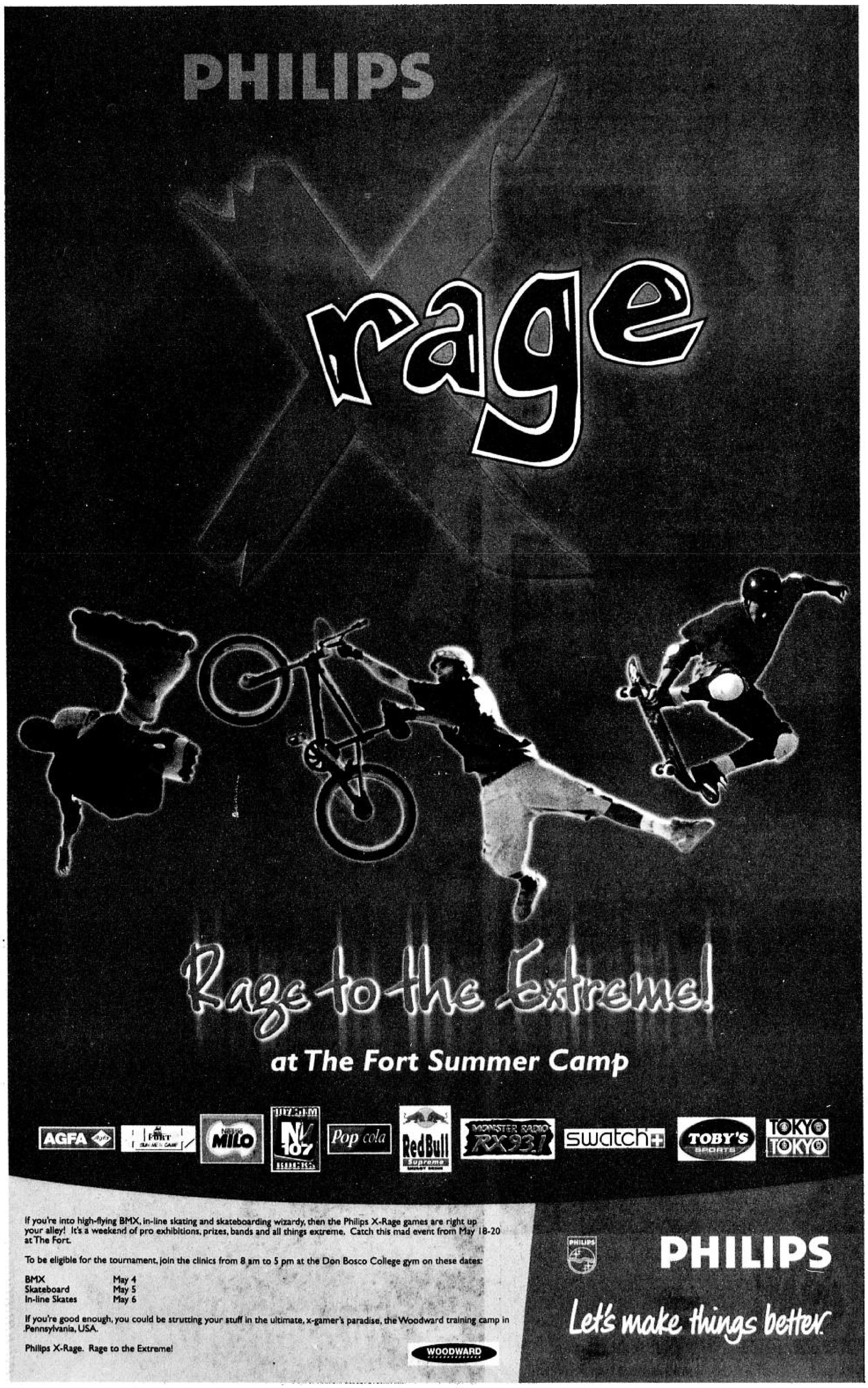
Comic patter

For his part, Vhong Navarro was really delightful in "Spirit Warriors," but his comic patter and gimmicks in his new film with Robin Padilla were too self-aware and *porma* to be genuinely funny. Comedy requires at least the illusion of spontaneity, but Vhong's posturing in "Ooops, Teka Lang…" ran counter to that requisite feeling of freshness and seemingly offhand humor.

These three young comers could still end up making it big in show biz, but they would stand a better chance of doing that if their rise to the top was paced more slowly and deliberately, so that they would be good and ready for new performing opportunities and challenges as they sequentially present themselves.



DOMINGO AND MCBRIDE. Easy does it.



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At the Oscars, these countries are winners all

BY RAMON REY E. BAYRON
(Conclusion)

CATHERINE Deneuve starred in the 1992 Best Foreign Language Film winner, "Indochine."

THE LAST Foreign Film finalist:

Country: **France**

Entry: **"The Taste of Others"**

Synopsis: A moody businessman attends the theater and falls madly in love with the leading actress. His amorous pursuit brings together a group of people who would seem to have little in common.

French films are not just favorites in the Oscars, they are a tradition. In the category's 44 years of existence (the Academy first gave its "Best Foreign Film" Oscar in 1956), France has been nominated 31 times and garnering nine wins.

If that isn't impressive enough, France has also received three Special/Honorary Foreign Film Awards even before the category became a regular part of the Oscars: "Forbidden Games" (1952), "The Walls of Malapaga" (1950), "Monsieur Vincent" (1948).

Worthy of emulation

Just like in kissing, the French seems to know a trick or two in filmmaking that's worthy of emulation. The following is the long list of French nominated films from the Academy:

"East-West" (1999)—Nominee, Foreign Language Film
"Ridicule" (1996)—Nominee
"Indochine" (1992)—Winner
"Cyrano de Bergerac" (1990)—Nominee
"Camille Claudel (1989)—Nominee
"Au Revoir les Enfants" ("Goodbye, Children") (1987)—Nominee
"Betty Blue" (1986)—Nominee
"Three Men and a Cradle" (1985)—Nominee
"Entre Nous" (1983)—Nominee
"Coup de Torchon" ("Clean Slate") (1982)—Nominee
"The Last Metro" (1980)—Nominee
"A Simple Story" (1979)—Nominee
"Get Out Your Handkerchiefs"(1978)—Winner
"Madame Rose" (1977)—Winner
"Cousin, Cousine" (1976)—Nominee
"Lacombe, Lucien" (1974)—Nominee
"Day for Night" (1973)—Winner
"The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie" (1972)—Winner
"Hoa-Ginh" (1970)—Nominee
"My Night with Maud" (1969)—Nominee
"Stolen Kisses" (1968)—Nominee
"Live for Life" (1967)—Nominee
"A Man and a Woman" (1966)—Winner
"The Umbrellas of Cherbourg" (1964)—Nominee
"Sundays and Cybele" (1962)—Winner
"La Vérité" (1960)—Nominee
"Black Orpheus"(1959)—Winner
"My Uncle"(1958)—Winner
"Gates of Paris" (1957)—Nominee
"Gervaise" (1956)—Nominee

No excuse

That we lack the most modern technologies in filmmaking, the Philippines being a third world country burdened by its self-inflicted economic crisis, is no excuse for our poor performance, or better yet, non-performance, in the Academy Awards.

The presence of Mexico, Belgium and the Czech Republic in this year's shortlist alone should put that excuse to rest, not only because their technology isn't too far ahead of Road Runner (we might even be ahead), but also because we share the same third world tragedies (uncontrolled urbanization, kidnapping, war) and sensibilities (hope, ambition, compassion, love) that are just waiting to be honestly captured on film.

Recognition

Filipino filmmakers (directors, screenwriters, actors) are also not wanting in world-class talent as proven by the international film community's recognition of Aunor, Red and De Leon in their respective fields. Even the industry's favorite scapegoats, the producers, have occasionally proven their willingness to be brave and put their money, or rather a part of it, where their mouth is, like Jimenez, Duavit, De Leon and sometimes even Monteverde.

What is hindering us though in getting that all-important Oscar recognition is politics. That and the insufficient will to overcome it.

Just how important is Hollywood recognition for the Philippines? Here's a totally practical answer: With the announcement that "Crouching Tiger…" won the Oscar, the film's box-office leapfrogged way above its hero's acrobatics over the giant bamboos. Now, in the US alone, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" has earned more than $100M. If that happened to a Filipino film, our movie industry would be in financial clover!

Some of Hollywood's best snubbed by Oscar

(From page D4)

much of its time — it touched a nerve during World War II," Gray said.

In 1976, four heavyweights were all contesting the top prize — Alan Pakula's "All the President's Men," Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver," Hal Ashby's "Bound for Glory" and Sidney Lumet's "Network."

But 1976's winner? "Rocky" by a knockout, though star Sylvester Stallone lost the decision in the acting category to "Network's" Peter Finch.

Oversights

Sometimes the Academy makes up for its oversights with Oscars in other categories.

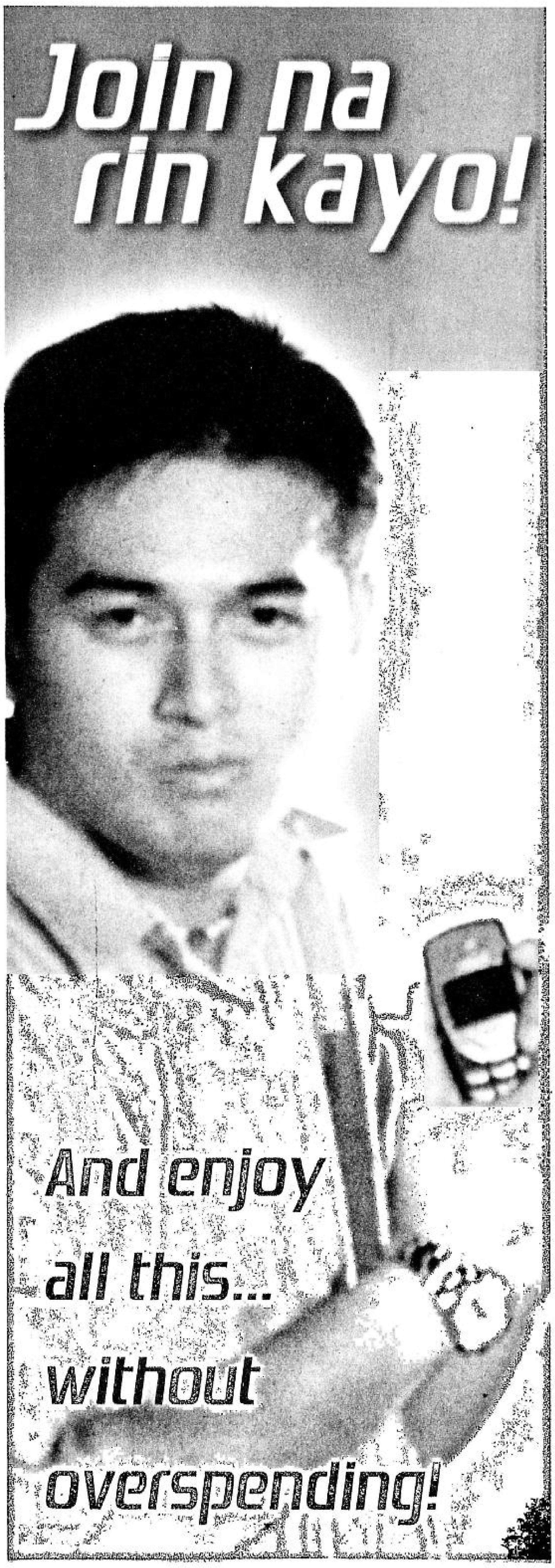
In 1952 "High Noon's" Gary Cooper was named best actor, and Maximilian Schell took the 1961 statue for "Judgment at Nuremberg," defeating Spencer Tracy for his role in the same movie.

In the end, adds Gray, your own opinion of the choices could say as much about you as the Academy and the Oscars.

"They're like a little Rorschach," he says. "It's like, tell me what your favorite movie is and I'll tell you who you are."

"It's easy to say in retrospect, 'What, were they nuts? What were they thinking?' That's what the Oscars are all about, second-guessing the Academy."

AFP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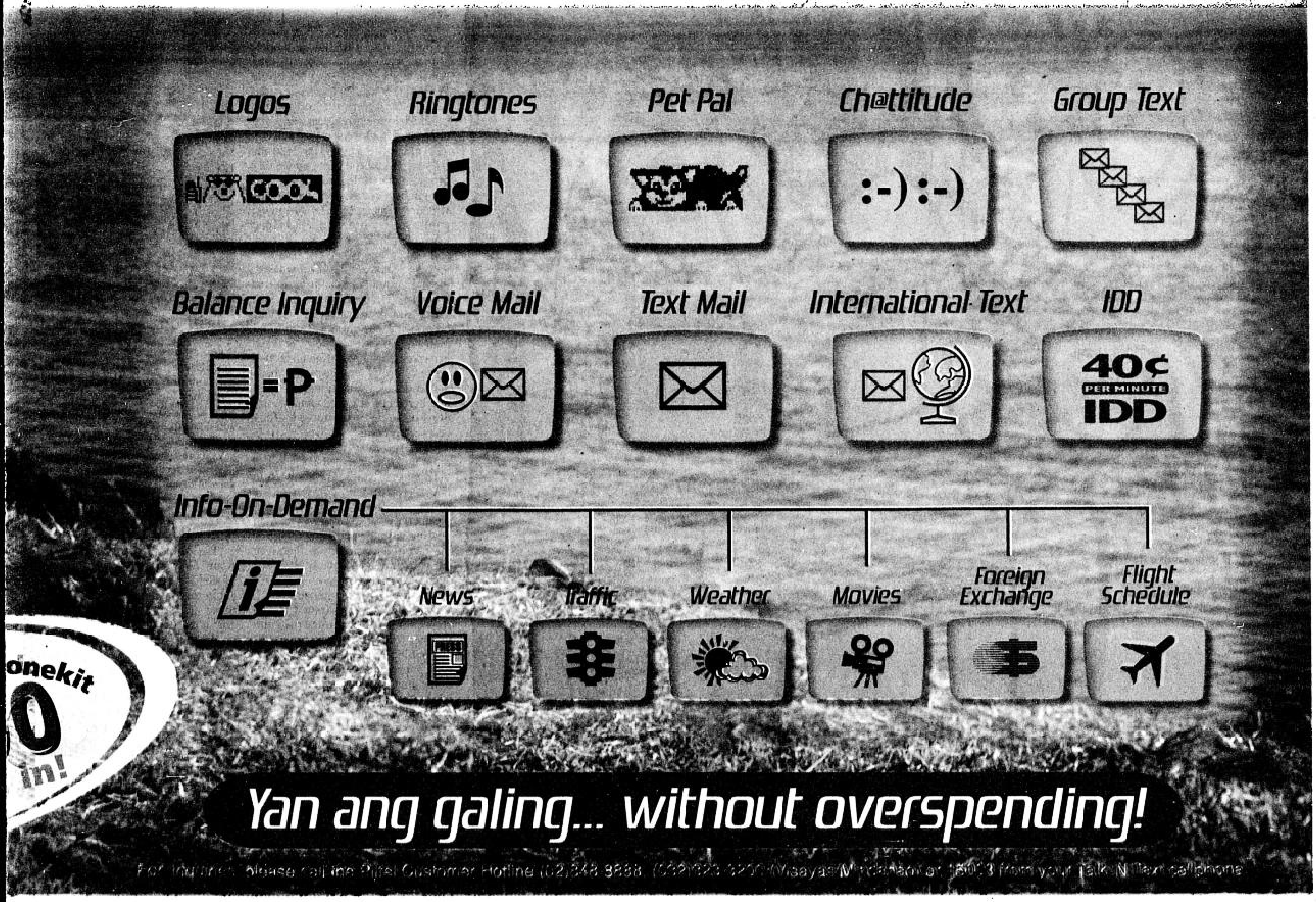
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(The [illegible] is not responsible for last minute changes in programming.)

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Princess Tenko 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Easy Money 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Eazy Dancing Non-Stop 10:00 Saturday Night Movies 12:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:30 GMA's BEST 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Conan 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	6:30 Journey of Allen Strange 7:00 Two of a Kind 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Party of Five 9:30 Studio 23 *Sense and Sensibility* 12:00 MTV	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! Special *Academy Awards Post-Show* 10:00 Wild On: *Riviera* 11:00 David Letterman 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Richard Loves Lucy 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sultada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5:00 Tarzan 6:00 Savage Dragon 6:30 Janperson 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Sunday Night Specials 11:00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11:30 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Billoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 The 700 Club	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8:30 Stark Raving Mad 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 Talk Soup 6:30 CBS Evening Newsd 7:00 60 Minutes 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 11:00 Celebrity Profile 12:00 Talk Soup
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Correspondents 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Macron 1 7:30 Freakazoid 8:00 By Request 9:00 Spy Games 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp.	6:00 MTV Diyes 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 Thief Takers 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 G.I. Joe 7:30 Superman (Animated) 8:00 Hercules 9:00 That '70s Show 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Kontak 5 11:30 F/X The Series 12:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Saklolo Abogado 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese	6:00 MTV Most Wanted 7:00 Greed 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Katapat, Fred Lim 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sabrina 7:30 Suddenly Susan 8:00 Frasier 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Musika Atbp. 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 It's A Miracle 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Fantasy Island 8:00 Survivor 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 The Explorer 12:45 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Assignment 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover Year 2 12:00 The Big News	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Virtua Fighter 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Buffy, The Vampire Slayer 9:00 Felicity 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 6:30 Be Seen @ MTV 7:00 Greed 7:30 Cineplex 23 *Fortress* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Digimon 8:00 Young Hercules 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Julia 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Gintong Pangarap 6:30 Transformers Original 7:00 Sliders 8:00 The Big Night 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma and Greg 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:00 Monster By Mistake 6:30 Batman 7:00 Greed 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Snoops 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Cityline 12:00 MTV	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Talk Soup 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

Loren Legarda hosts docu-drama on ABS-CBN

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

ABS-CBN continues to institute changes in its programming line-up. Mayoralty bet Afredo Lim's "Katapat" has been discontinued in view of the Comelec's ruling that candidates cannot appear in a regular radio or TV program by the start of the campaign period, March 31.

In his place, the Star Network is bringing in one of the network's alumna, who has moved on to the political arena as a member of the Philippine senate — Loren Legarda-Leviste. After Loren topped the senatorial race three years ago, she continued her broadcasting activity via a monthly documentary. Now the lady senator will return to a weekly program schedule and for the first time in her broadcasting career, she will air on primetime. Her 90-minute public service program, "Kabalikat Loren Legarda" goes on at 9 p.m. and will premiere on April 4.

Like "Katapat," the show will also feature dramatizations of cases that it handles. Unlike Mayor Lim's program, "Kabalikat" will not concentrate on police cases but cover other human-interest cases as well. As stated in its promo material, "Kabalikat" will present "prominent cases that made the headlines, inspirational stories of real heroes of our times and resolutions of some of the most baffling cases on record."

Loren promises a deeper involvement with the featured cases as she will not just handle the show from the air-conditioned comfort of the studio. Through her research and production staff, Loren will be seen dealing with the people involved in the featured cases. She will also be harnessing the resources of her own legal staff, called Lawyers League for Loren to help people in need.

During the presscon for her show, she was asked if the program was her way of furthering her political ambitions, an eventual run at the vice presidency or the highest post of the land. Loren did not totally discount the possibility but said this was furthest from her mind when the show was offered to her. The show is an extension of what she does as a senator. Although her job as senator is mainly to enact laws, she cannot refuse many of her constituents who come to her asking for help.

We asked her how her uncompromising stand as a broadcast journalist has been affected by politics which is regarded by many as "the art of compromise." Loren replied that she is her own person and no one can influence her when it comes to her principles. For instance, she voted against the VFA agreement despite the pressure exerted on her by former President Joseph Estrada. Even her husband, Tony Leviste, tried to change her mind but she was steadfast in her decision.

LOREN. Uncompromising stand.

The timing of her show is just right, says Loren, because she will be enjoying a five-month break in her schedule at the senate. Thus, she can concentrate on making "Kabalikat" a show that will make a difference.

Karen Davila, news anchor

The departure of Noli de Castro from "TV Patrol" resulted in changes of assignments for some news personalities in the network. One of those affected was Karen Davila, who now anchors "Headline News."

When Karen moved over to ABS-CBN from GMA, she called it a leap of faith. She was aware that she was entering uncharted territory, a big network where one could get lost and not get noticed. Her first assignment was "Barangay Dos" which she co-hosted with Atty. Kiko Pangilinan. The show dealt with petty problems like squabbling neighbors and domestic spats brought up to the barangay captain and how they were resolved.

Initially, it looked like a step down for someone who was already doing investigative journalism in GMA. However, it wasn't long because she was tasked to do documentaries for "The Correspondents" and just re-

LOREN/p.D9

What's it all about, Mikey?

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

WHO is Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo? Ever since his mother became president of our country, a lot of people have been curious about everything concerning this young man. When before he struggled to a have a slice of the limelight, Mikey is now in the thick of things.

Good friend

But I knew Mikey long before all of this attention was thrust on him. For starters, he is a good friend of my daughter Dolly Ann. We recently had an informal dinner (just to catch up on things) that proved neither time nor stature has changed the Mikey I met some few years back.

Mikey started out in show biz in the mid-'90s. Fresh from finishing his studies (Business Administration) at U.C. Berkeley, Mikey embarked on a show biz career, starting out by playing supporting roles in such movies as ``Anak, Pagsubok Lang Yan," and ``Hawak Ko ang Buhay Mo." At the time, his mother was already a senator and many thought that Mikey was just using his mother's name to open doors for himself.

Yet many who know Mikey, like his best friends April Boy Regino and Manny Pacquiao, would attest that there is a caring, intelligent man behind the famous surname. I remember Mikey undergoing a lot of workshops and really working hard to improve his acting. Not the type to throw his weight around, he never gave anyone the impression that he expected special treatment, or that opportunities would automatically fall on his lap.

If you ask his manager, Director Willy Milan (who was with us during dinner), he'd tell you right away that Mikey is the type of person who makes you feel that everyone is an equal. In fact, many of the people who have worked with Mikey are surprised at the humility he displays. He doesn't trumpet his presence wherever he goes.

It was typical of Mikey to be seen eating in a *carinderia* or wearing just a simple T-shirt and *tsinelas* even when he could afford to live the good life.

Bodyguards

He's even close to his bodyguards, and treats them like friends. He describes them as people "who eat so much. *Mahal sila pakainin!"* —of course, always in jest.

His attitude about being a presidential son is very down-to-earth. "This is just a phase. This is not permanent. *Sabit lang ako dito,"* I remember him saying on my radio show.

He claims to have learned the value of money and how to be close to his family because of show biz. "That's why I will never turn my back on it, no matter what," he says.

As far as girls are concerned, Mikey confesses to go for those who possess beautiful, soulful eyes. He's had three girl friends, but nothing really serious. Now that he's in show biz, many are pairing him off with Judy Ann Santos (especially now that they're shooting a movie together to be shown after the May elections). But Mikey would rather not say anything except, *"Masaya ako kapag kausap siya. Matino siyang babae at marunong sa buhay.* I am in awe of her—she's a superstar! *Manligaw? Di nga ako marunong manligaw!"*

So, who is Mikey's real love? The people of Pampanga, the Cabalens, that's who. You should hear him talk about the people he grew up with, especially about his plans for them if ever he wins this coming election (Mikey is running for Vice Governor alongside Lito Lapid). His eyes light up and he talks with fire. He always tells us that his mom and grandfather made him realize early on how important it is that he lives up to the expectations of his townmates and countrymen.

Legacy

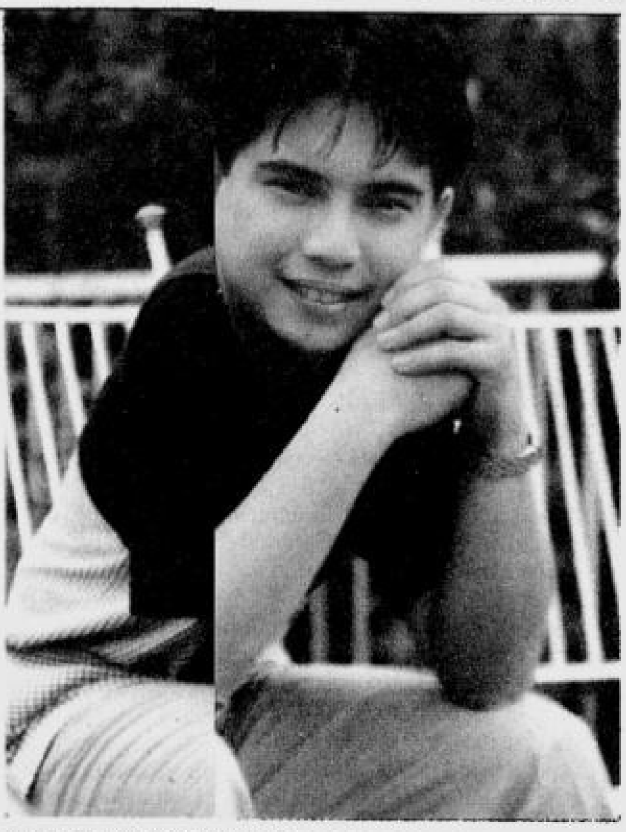
That's why one of Mikey's greatest fears is to be misunderstood or to get involved in scandals. He puts great weight on the name of his family and the legacy he has to live up to. "My mom and dad never spoiled us. Though I cannot remember a time when they did not give us what we asked for, I think that's because we only asked for reasonable things," he said. As far as he remembers, the only time his parents refused a request of his was when he asked for a drum set!

Although many people speculate that he might be putting his best foot forward because he plans to pursue a higher office in the years to come, Mikey is quick to say that he doesn't think of those things. "I don't look farther than next year *kasi baka masyadong mapalayo ang tingin ko. Pagbutihin ko muna yung mga naplano ko na,"* he says.

Mom's order

Like the way he runs his show biz career, Mikey maintains that having a star complex in politics is not his cup of tea. He strictly follows his mom's order not to use his influence to get special favors.

Mikey Arroyo has what it takes to succeed, both as an actor and as a politician.



THE PRESIDENTot have a star complex.

Loren Legarda hosts docu-drama

(From page D8)

cently, she got a plum assignment, anchor for the late night newscast.

Other may be happy just delivering the news but Karen prefers the rough and tumble of field work. Expect, therefore, segments of "Headline News" to feature special reports from Karen.

During the presscon for her latest assignment, we were impressed by Karen's grasp of current developments and her awareness of ethical issues involved in reporting the news. We had brought up the question of the use of hidden cameras in coverages and she was quite convincing in explaining when it should or should not be used.

Truly, Karen is not just a pretty face chosen to decorate the late evening newscast. She is, more importantly, a skilled and talented broadcast journalist. We foresee good things happening to Karen in the years ahead.

Ryan Agoncillo leaves GMA

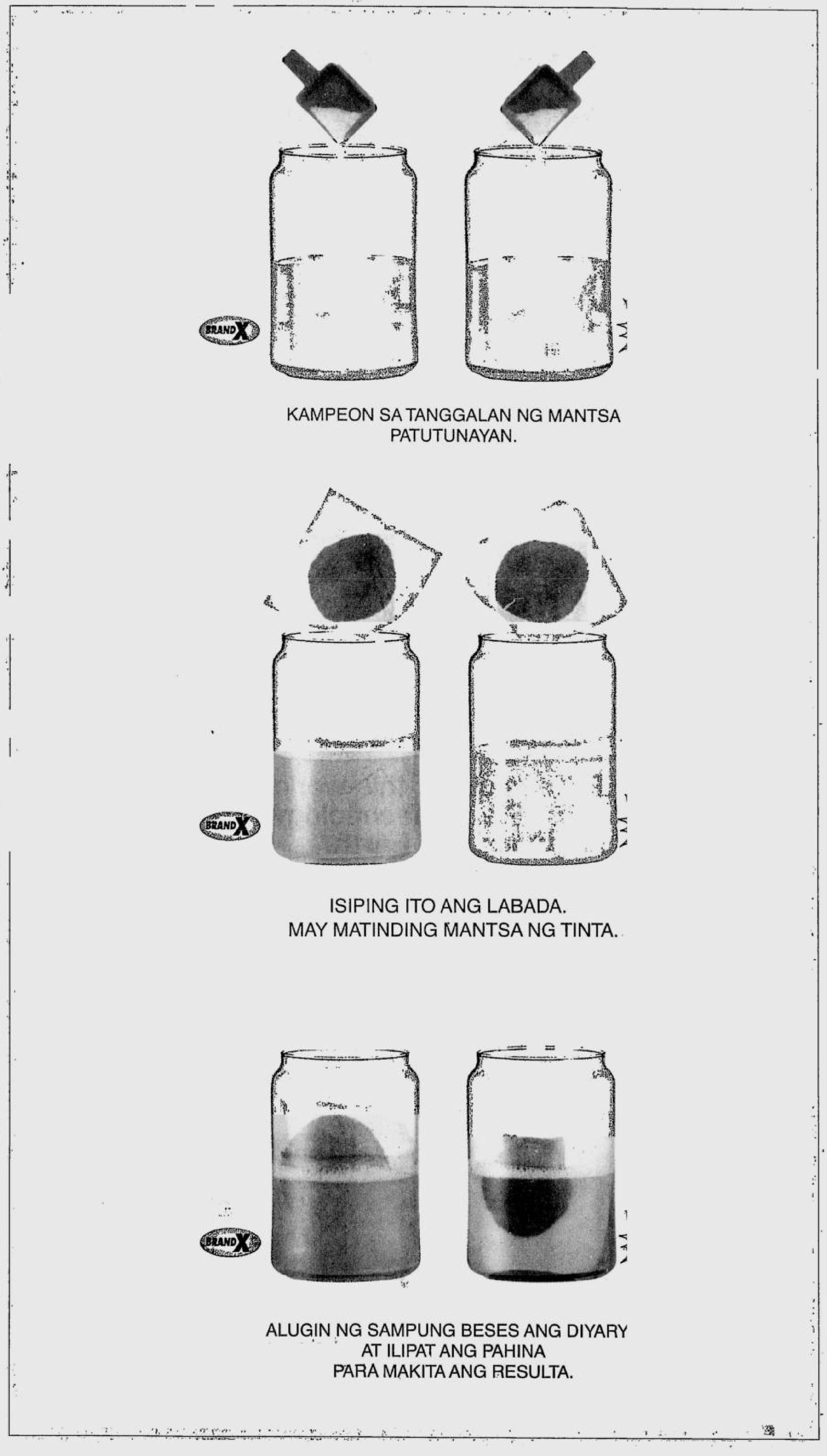
Another GMA stalwart, Ryan Agoncillo, has also made the move to ABS-CBN. When Kris Aquino's morning show was replaced by "Talk TV," ABS-CBN invited Ryan to co-host the show with Julius Babao, Tintin Bersola and Janette McBride. It was an invitation he said he couldn't pass up.

After a two-year stint with GMA's early morning show, "Unang Hirit," Ryan was being given a chance to move on to a bigger network. Other incentives were added to his transfer. He will soon host his own magazine program on Studio 23 and given directorial assignments, such as doing two Star Music Videos. Ryan is part-owner of a production house called DV Post, Inc.

During his solo presscon for the show, we could feel that Ryan's main love is really working behind the camera. However, his good looks and strong presence on the boob tube are assets he cannot just allow to go to waste.

We asked him how he handles guests who give kilometric answers to his questions and guests who give one-word answers. For the glib talker, he tries to interrupt by summarizing his answers and moving on to the next question. For the shy guest, he makes sure that the two of them warm up before they go on the air.

Since he hosts a talk show, we wondered if he could stand an entire day without saying a single word. Surprisingly, he replied that he has his idiosyncrasies. There are days, he said, when he just wants to be alone so he locks himself in his room and not talk to anyone. That sounds very anti-social indeed, not the kind of behavior you'd expect from a very sociable person like Ryan.



Battle of position papers

AS the controversy over censorship and film freedom heats up, individuals and organizations caught in the fray have come up with position papers to clarify where they stand. This week, here are three examples, to help readers come up with their own views on the matter:

By Dr. Carolina P. Araullo,
Vice Chairperson
Bagong Alyansang Makabayan

IS the film "Live Show" pornographic or not? The affirmative contention of Cardinal Sin and some moralists that the film is pornographic is, at the least, arguable.

But at the behest of and siding with Cardinal Sin and these moralists, President Macapagal-Arroyo has also answered this question in the affirmative, forced the resignation of Prof. Nicanor Tiongson as chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) and ordered that reels of the film be pulled out from moviehouses.

More than the sight of "pumping" and "penetration" scenes in "Live Show," what may have so worried the Macapagal-Arroyo government was the honest portrayal of the worsening social realities we continue to face today despite the ouster of President Estrada.

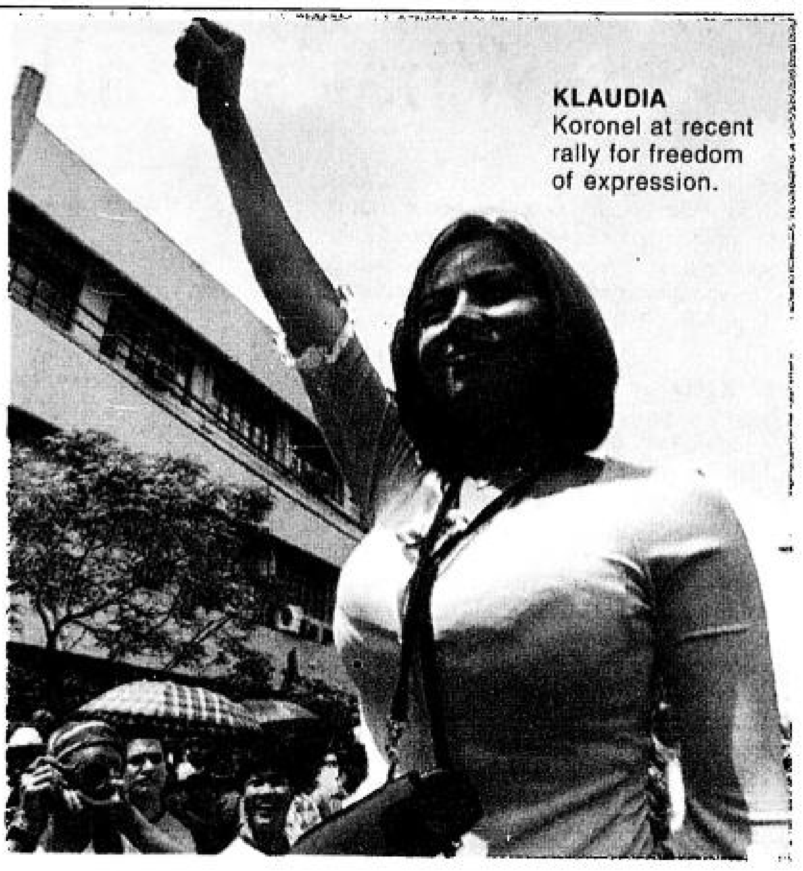
Fealty

This affair likewise confirms Macapagal-Arroyo's fealty to a few interest groups whose beliefs and morality codes are not necessarily shared by the rest of the Filipino people.

After pandering to the militarists and appointing them to civilian posts, Macapagal-Arroyo now side with some moralists in a "moral revolution" targetting artists who dare depict the true state of the nation and the culpability and immorality of those who rape the nation's economy and sovereignty. This presents a clear and present danger to freedom of expression and artistic freedom.

It is useless to argue with fanatical moralists since argumentation and debate is not in their vocabulary. But we have to actively combat them because some moralists spread intolerant and fringe moral standards, and as in this case, have the clout to easily pressure the new president into following their bidding.

We worry for Macapagal-Arroyo, for her fealty to a few. But we worry more for the nation, which has to carry the burden of Macapagal-Arroyo's fealty, first, to the military and now to some moralists.


KLAUDIA Koronel at recent rally for freedom of expression.

Hubris in the Philippine movie industry

By Marilou Diaz-Abaya,
Film director and producer

GREED of some movie producers, not his eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin, aborted the career of Dr. Nicanor Tiongson as chief of the MTRCB. The Philippine movie industry itself, and not the film "Live Show," is very, very sick. It is in hubris.

This is not a battle between the Church and State. This is a battle between filmmakers and the public, between media and society.

Interventions

The Catholic Church, and in particular, Cardinal Sin and Msgr. Soc Villegas, have been accused of "religious bigotry" and "meddling in political affairs." The accusers don't seem to have minded all the other interventions made by the Cardinal for the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada; and whenever His Eminence speaks out strongly against the death penalty, against the war in Mindanao, and against the oppression and exploitation of the poor. Do we have a double standard here?

"Live Show" was approved for public exhibition almost a year ago. But why was it shelved all this time? Because ex-president Estrada intervened and instructed MTRCB Chief Armida Siguion-Reyna to appeal to movie producers and directors to go easy on sex movies because of the mounting public outcry against soft-porn flicks posing as art. Even Erap backed out of a confrontation with "moral terrorists" and "ultra-conservatives."

Director Joey Reyes himself requested producer Lily Monteverde to postpone the exhibition of "Live Show," but the producer could no longer wait to recover her investment. She decided to release it now. Unfortunately, her timing is really off, and the attempts to shift the blame for its disastrous consequences to the Church and Cardinal Sin is a cowardly cop-out. She should stick to upholding the creative legitimacy of "Live Show," and clarifying her integrity in producing this film.

Privileges

I have consistently advocated the artists' right to creative expression and the principle of self-regulation by the entertainment industries, but these are privileges which come with many serious obligations, the first of which is to earn, deserve and sustain public trust. We in the movie industry must admit that we have often betrayed that trust by cheating our audiences of good films. Nothing we as filmmakers say and do will substitute for the kind of films we make, or fail to make.

No longer can it be argued that "good movies don't make money." Our audiences and critics rewarded "Bata, Bata Paano ka Ginawa?" "Jose Rizal," "Muro Ami," "Anak," "Tanging Yaman" and "Spirit Warriors," among other films, and made them big box-office hits. Unfortunately, these successes do not seem to persuade more producers to follow through. Why? Because films like these take a lot of time, money and commitment to make. Some producers prefer easy, quick ways to make a profit; and since they sometimes do get away with it—well, hubris.

It is claimed that the Philippine movie industry is dying. I do not agree. It is merely in transition, a great opportunity for re-invention. New audiences have new demands, and we as an industry ought to pay sensitive attention to the messages they are sending us. We have an obligation to respond sensitively, or risk losing our entire industry altogether.

Extraordinary times

We live in extraordinary times. We cannot demand extraordinary virtues and sacrifices of our government and Church leaders while we ourselves conduct our affairs as though it were "business as usual." Show business is not exempt from "new politics."

In the year 2001, let's cut out show biz vanity and conceit. Let's re-shoot our act. It's a good idea to begin from a position of humility by acknowledging that we have shortchanged our audiences for too long. We owe them an apology, and firmer resolve to give them what they truly deserve.

Pahayag ng mga scriptwriter sa pelikula at telebisyong Pilipino

Signed by Ricardo Lee, president, Pete Lacaba, chairman, and members of the Screenwriters Guild of the Philippines

KINOKONDENA naming mga manunulat sa pelikula at telebisyong Pilipino ang pagbawi ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo *sa* exhibition permit *ng* "Live Show," *ang pag-*pressure *kay* MTRCB Chief Nic Tiongson *upang mag-*resign *sa kanyang posisyon, at ang patuloy na walang pakundangang pakikialam ng mga* ultra-*konserbatibong elemento ng simbahan sa gobyerno at maging sa ating industriya ng pelikula.*

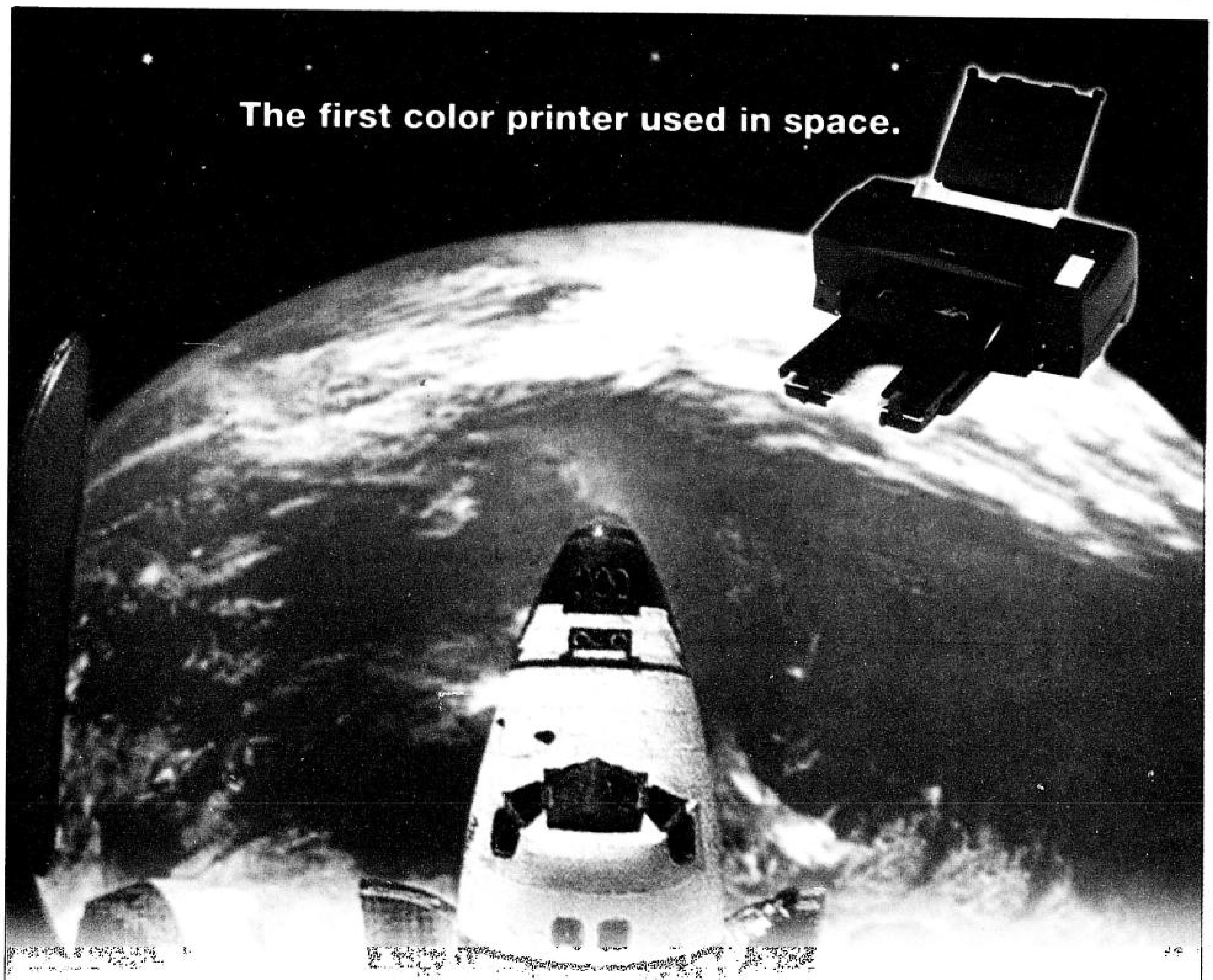
People power II

Kalayaan sa pamamhayag upang maibunyag ang katotohanan ang siyang nagtulak sa ating lahat upang pumunta sa mga lansangan noong People Power II. *Kalayaan sa pamamahayag ang siyang nagluklok sa kasalukuyang gobyerno. Nakakalungkot isiping ang kalayaan sa pamamahayag ding ito ang siyang nagiging biktima ngayon ng mga makikitid ang isip sa ating simbahan at gobyerno.*

Tungkulin ng isang manunulat na makita at ipakita ang katotohanan. Bilang manunulat ay ginawa namin ito noong People Power II. *Ginawa rin ito ng pelikulang* "Live Show." *At patuloy naming ginagawa ito sa aming mga trabaho.*

Sa mga nangyayari ngayon, hindi lang ang pelikulang "Live Show" *at ang mga gumagawa ng pelikula ang sinesensor kundi pati na rin ang sambayanang Pilipino sa kanyang karapatan na makita at maipahayag ang katotohanan. Gusto tayong bulagin ng mga* ultra-*konserbatibong ele-*

BATTLE/p.D11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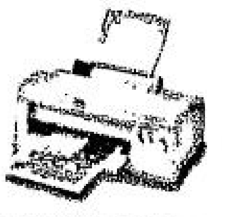
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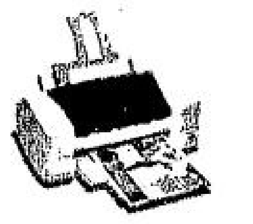
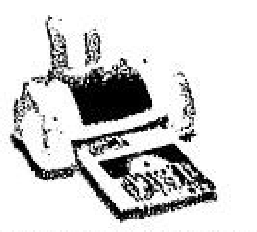

EPSON STYLUS COLOR 880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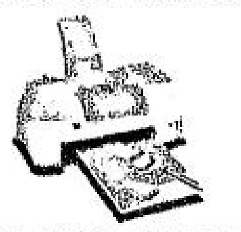
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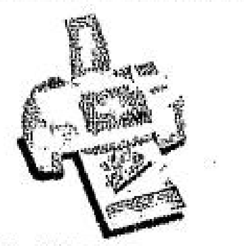
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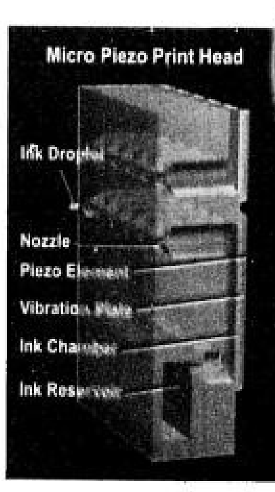

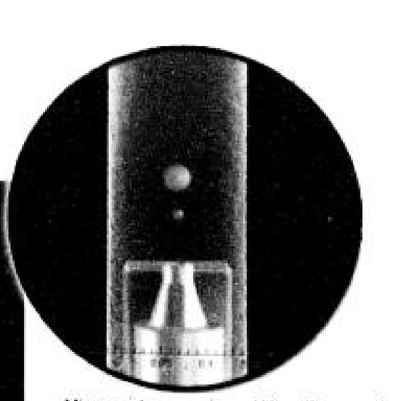
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'Chocolat' is a succulent, seductive and instructive cinematic confection

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

CHOCOLATE is supposed to be an aphrodisiac, and the current film "Chocolat" builds on and further intensifies that claim with its story about how the mysterious owner of a chocolate shop turns on the heretofore frigid residents of a small town in France in the late 1950s.

Passion

Specifics: the town *and* its young parish priest are under the thumb of its righteous, ultra-moralistic mayor (Alfred Molina), who thinks that passion is the prime tool that the devil uses to corrupt men's souls.

Even worse, the chocolate shop owner (Juliette Binoche) is a single mother who doesn't believe in religion. Worst of all, she opens her shop during the season of Lent, a time for making sacrifices, *not* luxuriating in the heady pleasures of chocolate!

So, Binoche gets on the mayor's bad side early in the story, and he urges his constituents to boycott her new establishment. Instead of closing her shop and shamefacedly leaving town, however, Binoche keeps whipping up her succulent and seductive confections, which soon have a magical effect on their new devotees:

Battered wife

A battered wife (Lena Olin) summons up the courage to leave her brutish husband. A shy man "dares" to show his affection for an old woman (Leslie Caron). A boy is reunited with his grandmother (Judi Dench), who has been kept away from him by her own daughter, who regards her as a bad influence on him.

Most "shocking" of all, the mayor himself eventually falls for the seductive, liberating qualities of chocolate. No, he doesn't end up in Binoche's arms (even chocolate can't be that powerfully persuasive), but his transformation is still impressive to be hold.

But the movie is interested in more than just chocolate as a turn-on and healer of broken psyches and relationships. It is really about how an outside influence can challenge some of our dearly-held beliefs and free us from warped notions of what's right and wrong.

Reprehensible

In "Chocolat," the town gets intimidated by the arrival of a band of gypsies (led by Johnny Depp). To the small-minded residents, the gypsies represent everything threatening and reprehensible that they want to keep from "infecting" their beloved village, so the unwanted visitors are kept at arm's length and refused service at the local bar. To top it all, their barge is put to the torch, and some people's lives are endangered.

Thankfully, by film's end, the residents' minds have been opened, and some problematic relationships have been worked out.

Benignted notions

Chocolate serves as the objective correlative for the liberating influence many of us need to challenge the benignted notions that cause us to be cruel to others, and keep us from becoming the best persons we can possibly be.

All this doesn't mean that viewing "Chocolat" is a pluperfect treat. Its story is really old-hat, and some of its conflicts are too neatly and sweetly resolved. Still, the movie has more than enough plus points to make it a must-see film. Catch it before it melts away!

Final note: It's interesting that "Chocolat" is being shown here during the season of Lent. Just like the characters in the movie, perhaps we too can use the occasion of seeing the film as *our* time to question our own small-minded notions, whatever they may be.

Annual lenten retreat

The Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Cubao, QC, is holding its 20th annual lenten retreat at Araneta Coliseum on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Black Saturday (April 12,13 and 14) from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. The retreat masters are Fr. Erick Santos, Fr. Anton Pascual and Fr. Enrique Aloysius Ma. S. Aliño.

Workshop

A one-day workshop on "Finding Your Life Purpose" will be conducted by Celia and Peter Hawe of the famous Findhorn Spiritual Community in Ireland. To be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, March 31, at the Center for Health and Creative Arts, the workshop will help participants tap into their true values to become effective and happy in their lives and work. Call 426-5368.

Bikini Beach Buddies

The second annual search for Bikini Beach Buddies 2001 (men and women) is ongoing at Suite 2305, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. (tel. no. 633-6444).

The tilt will be launched at Caramba at The Fort, Taguig, MM, on May 3 and at Café Overdrive on Pasong Tamo ext., Makati City, on May 12, and the send-off party will be held at Padi's Point on Mindanao ave. on May 19.

Semi-finals will be at Puerto Galera on May 25 and 26, While winners will be proclaimed on June 3 at Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Kawit, Cavite. The contest is open to male and female health buffs between 18 to 25 years of age.

'Rico' opens in Davao City

The LBC Performing Center in Davao presents the original musical, "Rico," on April 6, 7 and 21 at the Davao Christian High School Auditorium. Producer Chin Bon Lu says "Rico" depicts the lives of street children and shows how the city government regards them.

Over-all technical director Lourdes "Bing" Locsin adds that the musical is a wake-up call for the public to alleviate the plight of street children. Script is by Ian Garcia, and direction is by Les Merquita.

TV treats

Sunday, April 1 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Inspector Gadget," starring Matthew Broderick.

At 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Shaping Our World" focuses on the volcanoes of Alaska, Japan and Iceland.

Monday, April 2 at 8 p.m. on Star Movies, "Celebrity Profile" features Harrison Ford.

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Action Asia Challenge 2000—Hong Kong" is on Race 2 of Asia's only Adventure Race Series. Watch 79 three-member teams compete in an extraordinary, multi-discipline test of human stamina, endurance and team spirit.

DEPP plays a nomadic musician who is as free-spirited as Binoche's Vianne.

Battle of . . .

(From page D10)

mento sa simbahan at gobyerno upang, kagaya nila, tayo man ay wala na ring makita kundi peke at makikitid na reyalidad.

Ang dapat gawin ng mga nasa poder, kung ayaw nilang makakita ng masasakit na reyalidad sa ating nga pelikula, ay gumawa sila ng hakbang upang baguhin ang mga reyalidad na ito ng kahirapan, inhustisya, imoralidad at iba pang problema ng bansa. Huwag nilang barilin ang nagdadala ng masamang balita. Huwag nilang pag-initan ang naglalantad ng katotohanan.

Huwag nilang gayahin ang ginagawa ng mga prayle kay Jose Rizal noon, na nang maglantad siya ng kanser ng lipunan ay siya ang binaril sa halip na ginamot ang kanser.

Ipagapatuloy nating mga manunulat ang pakikipaglaban para sa karapatan ng mga manunulat at ng sambayanang Pilipino, para sa kalayaan ng pamamahayag!

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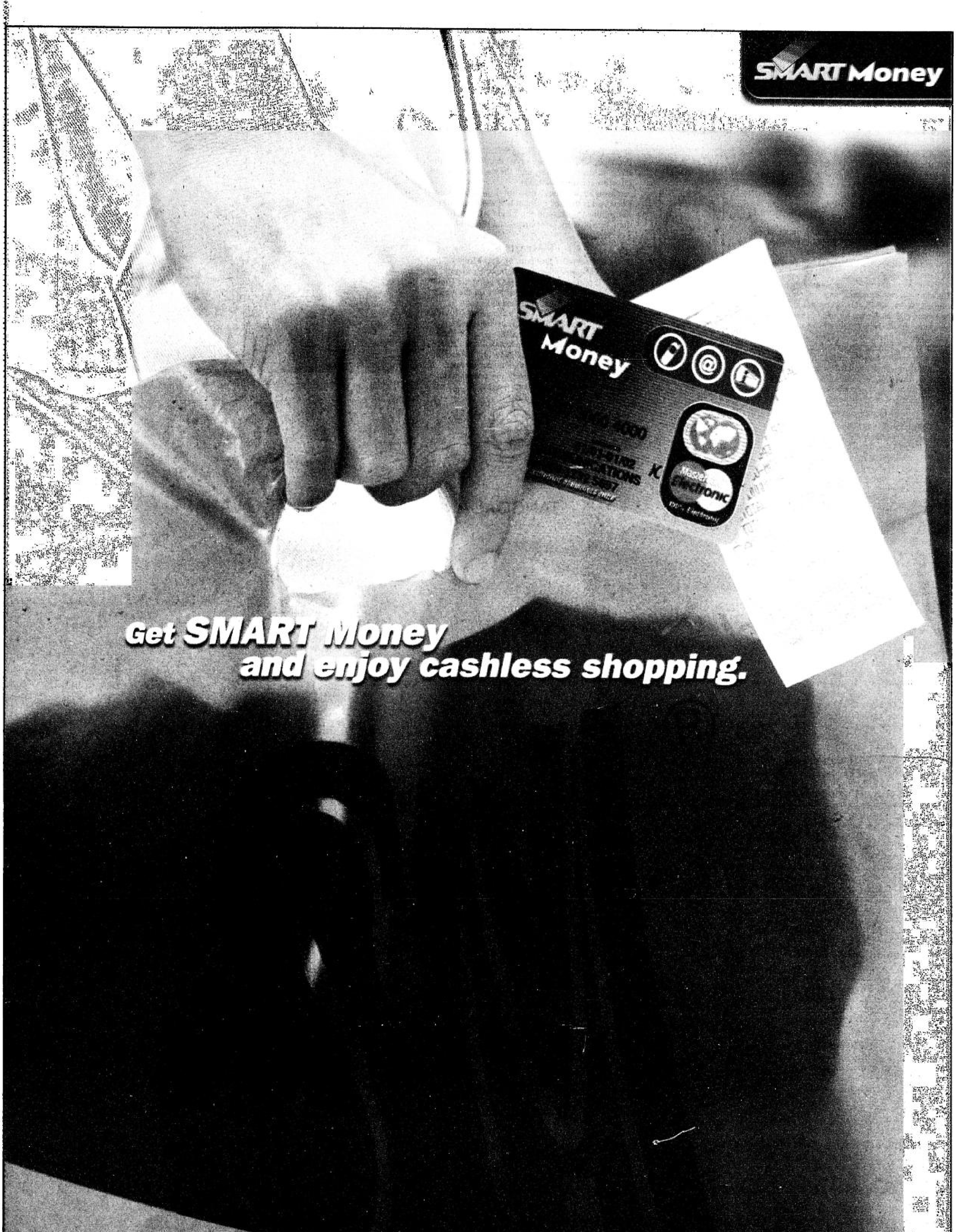

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Saturday SPECIAL

ROSALES. Admits he's a mama's boy.

Focus on Jericho Rosales and Michael J. Fox

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

I AM a college sophomore and I like watching Jericho Rosales on "Munting Paraiso" and "Pangako Sa 'Yo." He's good-looking. Is it true that he has a child out of wedlock? Please tell me more about his personal life." ***—Apple Garcia, P1-23 Gabriela Silang Hillside, Baguio City 2600***

"It's very hard to see Michael J. Fox leaving his TV sitcom "Spin City" because of his fight against Parkinson's disease. He has been a good influence for the past 12 years and I feel like he's almost a friend to me. It's too early for him to bow out, but I guess he has to make that choice for himself and his family. Please feature him. Thanks." ***—Michael Flaherty, G.M.M.A Minuyan Proper, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan 3024***

Jericho Rosales

Age: 21 years

Mom: Rosario

Siblings: Maria Luisa (38); Carlos (29); Jeremiah (16)

Least-Known Facts: Has four dogs named Sampaguita or Sam, Wanda, Velvet and Snawer, whom he treats like "babies." He has a gay cat named Arnulfo. Fan and gossip magazines are banned in their home because his mom gets upset when she reads negative write-ups. He hates brushes and sometimes refuses to fix his hair when he's moody.

Habit: He sleeps when he's not working.

TV Shows: "Esperanza," "Oka Tokat," "Kaybol," "ASAP," "Munting Paraiso," "Pangako sa 'Yo."

Most memorable movie he's made: "Tanging Yaman"

Odd job he's taken: pizza (delivery) boy

Phobia: dark, deep water

Likes: Dungeons, King Arthur stuff and magic cards.

Dream roles: To be included in an action movie. A "weird and psychotic" role.

No girlfriend

Lovelife: No girlfriend at the moment.

Q&A: **What's your greatest achievement?**

Being a breadwinner at 17 years old. I matured fast because I had more responsibilities. *Natuto akong dumiskarte sa buhay.*

How do you react when they call you a heartthrob?

Gusto ko yung idea *na sikat ako.* Flattered *ako kasi mas maraming artista na mas kilala kaysa sa akin pero* heartthrob *ang tingin nila sa akin.* The down side is, I've lost my privacy.

What's the most difficult thing you've done as an actor? What's challenging to you?

Mahirap umiyak. But it's easy to dig into my emotions because of my past experiences.

Are you close to your mom?

Yes, I'm a mama's boy. My mom used to give me baths even when I was already in elementary. I was such a baby. I love her so much.

Are you close to your brothers?

Yes, we drink together.

Do you like aggressive girls or do you want to make the first move?

I prefer to do the courting. I like being challenged. I like trying to figure out how to approach a girl and how to get to know her. I have always looked up to women. *Dapat alagaan at ilagay sa pedestal ang mga babae.*

What are your plans?

I want to try directing and go behind the camera. I inquired at UP because they offer a film course. I want to go back to school. But with my current schedule, I can't study right now.

FOCUS/ p.E2

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	Rome	Includes city tour.	US$ 1,097	US$ 69
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	San Francisco	Includes city tour and Bay cruise.	US$ 1,163	US$ 73
	Los Angeles - Disneyland	Includes 1-day pass to Disneyland or California Adventure.	US$ 1,033	US$ 65
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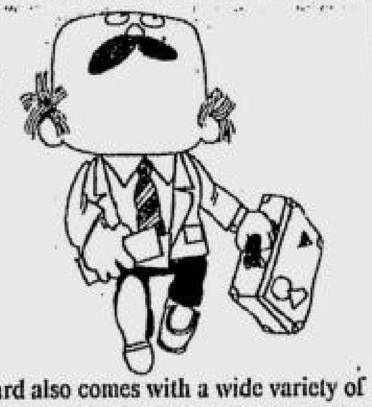

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Emergencies are never predictable but cardholders are always prepared. The credit card serves as a safety net that can cover any eventuality. Consumers with credit cards never worry. For them, the credit card is an essential part of the modern day living survival kit. **One should never leave home without it.**

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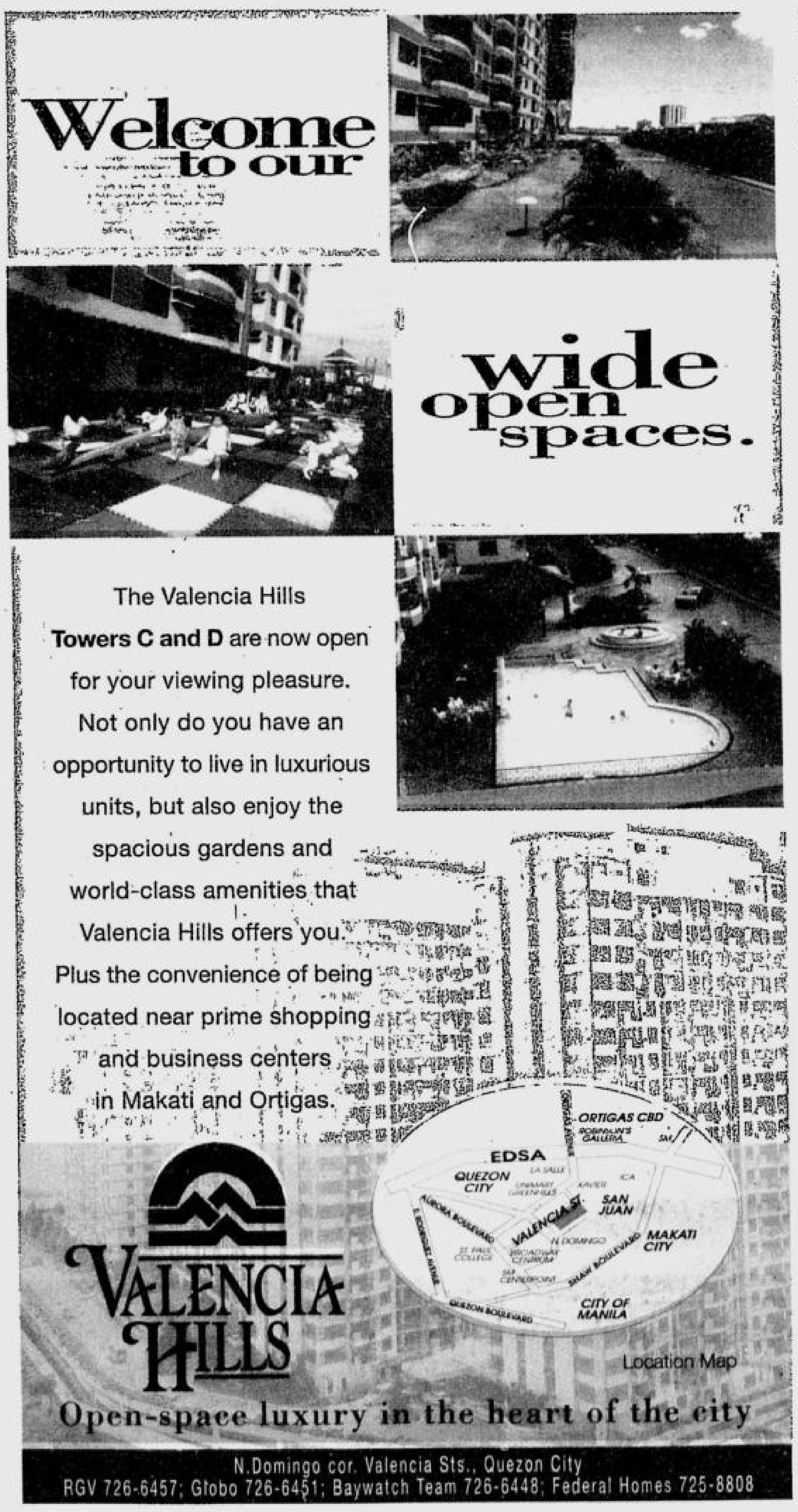

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John Travolta bounces back

THE talented John Travolta is back yet again—this time with a Euro-flavor in Warner Bros.' upcoming thriller, "Swordfish" where he stars with Hugh Jackman and Halle Berry. We sat down on location with the dude himself to get the inside scoop:

Let's start with the title, "Swordfish." I know what a swordfish is, but is this a special meaning?

Slush fund

Travolta: Yeah, it was a special government black operation—a secret operation that the government set up years ago for a slush fund for all the drug traffic. Swordfish was the name for that operation.

Tell me about the look.

The way I look? I decided to go with sort of Euro-trash.

Is that why you wanted to do this, because it's so unlike what you have done in the past?

You know me. I always look for something different in each project. You know there is a limit to how many genres you can do, so I decided this was going to be a different take or different twist on the genre that everyone is familiar with, the action/thriller genre.

What are we seeing today? What's going on inside?

I've hired Hugh Jackman to be the hacker here. He's a famous hacker actually, he's been put away for it earlier and he has a lot of trepidation about even touching a computer because he could be put away again.

Patriot

So I hire him to basically find a worm where we can find access to his fund that Swordfish represented years ago, so I can fight terrorism personally. He's a patriot of some sort.

TRAVOLTA. Something different.

So, you've actually talked him into doing something that he doesn't want to do?

He does not want to do it, but he's doing it for personal reasons, he's doping it so his daughter can be bailed out of a certain situation that he doesn't like.

I saw Halle Berry floating around the set up here.

She is my sidekick—kind of my girlfriend but we don't know for sure. We are on the government operation and Hugh Jackman doesn't really know what we're about, he's just trying to figure it out. He just wants to do his computer work and get our of here, and Halle and I have to keep him enticed.

Now Halle's had a lot of success lately, she doesn't bring her Emmys to the set, does she?

Not yet, but she wants to.

Was she someone you looked forward to working with? You haven't in the past, have you?

Nice combination

I've never worked with her, but she's done some wonderful work. She and Hugh Jackman were together before in "X-Men," so they were very comfortable together. It's a very nice combination of people, I think.

How does Kelly (Preston) respond to your new look?

She loves it.

Because this hair is permanent, this doesn't come off?

She hasn't seen this yet, but she is coming to the set today. So, I'll be ready to throw her.

Do you ever leave a set where you create a style of a look and you say, "I kind of like it"?

I would *love* this, you know.

And leave it in? Do you have separation anxiety when the movie is over?

At the end of the day, my hairdresser has to take this off and I have to look at my own hair loss!

Focus on Jericho Rosales and Michael J. Fox

(From page E1)

Michael J. Fox

Real Name: Michael Andrew Fox
Birthday: June 9, 1961
Birthplace: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Eyes: Blue
Hair: Sandy Brown
Height: 5'5
Wife: Actress Tracy Pollan
Children: Sam Michael Fox (born May 31, 1989), Shuyler and Aquinnah (twins, born February 15, 1994)
Movies: "Teen Wolf," "Back to the Future," "The Secret of My Success," "Light of Day," "Bright Lights, Big City," "Casualties of War," "Back to the Future Part II," "Back to the Future Part III," "The Hard Way," "Doc Hollywood," "Where the River Flows North," "Life With Mikey," "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey," "For Love or Money," "Greed," "Coldblooded," "Blue in the Face," "The American President," "Mars Attacks," "Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco," "The Frighteners."

TV shows

TV: "Leo & Me," "Letters from Frank," "Midnight Madness," "Palmerstown USA," "Class of 1984," "Family Ties," "High School USA," "Teen Wolf," "Poison Ivy," "Family Ties Vacation," "Dear America: Letters from Vietnam," "Spin City," "Michael T. Flaherty I Am Your Child."

FOX. "The American President" renewed his career.

Where to write him: Michael J. Fox c/o Creative Artists Agency, 9830 Wilshire blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90212, USA

Michael J. Fox was one of the most successful young actors in the 1980s. His clean image and good looks give him a boyish charm. He began acting professionally at 15 on the CBC TV series "Leo and Me." He developed a passion for acting so he moved to Los Angeles when he was 18.

He landed a role in Walt Disney's "Midnight Madness" and a spot on the short lived but critically acclaimed TV show, "Palmerstown USA." As Alex Keaton, a neo-conservative son obsessed with money and politics, on "Family Ties," he won three Emmy Awards.

Heavy workload

In between its airing from 1982 to 1989, Michael did "Back to the Future" and several movie sequels. It was a heavy workload but the stress paid off at the box-office.

After "Family Ties" ended, Michael appeared in a string of flops. His transition from young star to adult actor was a difficult one. The movie "The American President" renewed his career because the role was a grown-up version of Alex Keaton. Then he made "The Frighteners" and "Mars Attacks!"

His series "Spin City" requires him to play the deputy mayor of New York City. The political satire and slapstick humor made it a critical success.

Fox suffered from Parkinson's disease, a debilitating disease that cripples the nervous system for several years but kept it a secret until recently. As the disease advances, it has been difficult for him to work. He intends to work until he can and refuses to allow the disease to beat him.

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-- *The New York Times (New York Philharmonic/Zubin Mehta)*

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- *Chicago Tribune (Chicago Symphony/Claudio Abbado)*

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Japanese film outfits shoot in the Philippines

By Edmund L. Sicam

IT'S always welcome news when we hear about foreign production outfits choosing the Philippines as their locale for film projects. Two such outfits from Japan are in the country shooting martial arts movies.

'Dance shoot'

Jacky Woo, known in his native country as an expert in combat fighting known as "dance shoot," recently finished filming "Total Aikido." The movie, which features Woo with local talents John Regala and Aya Medel, is now showing at several Metro Manila theaters. Woo tapped local filmmaker Jerry Tirazona to co-direct the action movie.

Already, Woo is at work on the film's sequel, "Total Aikido 2" which is being shot in Cebu. When Solar Films, the local distributor, scheduled a presscon recently, the Japanese star was still busy filming and could not attend the affair. Instead, his representative, Takenari Fukuoka, was on hand to answer questions.

Fukuoka told us that Woo owns a cosmetic manufacturing company in Japan and produces movies and TV shows. He explained that the movie industry in Japan is suffering from a slump because the public would rather watch TV and enjoy other forms of entertainment. That's probably why Woo has decided to tap other countries in the region for his film projects.

OGAMI. A new outlook in life.

The Japanese style of aikido is different from that practiced in other countries in that it focuses more on the spiritual rather than on the destructive aspect of the sport, according to Fukuoka.

"Total Aikido" marks Woo's debut as an actor. The group was looking for a local actor to play the martial arts hero but couldn't find anyone suitable. Eventually, Woo decided to try his hand at appearing in front of the camera. This is definitely Woo's movie. He is producer, director, actor, and he even sings the movie's theme song, which he composed.

Meanwhile, another martial arts guru, Genta Ogami, is working on an international movie with local sexpot Joyce Jimenez. She plays the role of Maria, the daughter of Señor Alonso, who is forced to sell her to Big Bill, an obnoxious capitalist. Ogami plays a Japanese martial arts hero who is tasked by a "voice from above" to save Asia from the forces of evil.

Balance

The martial arts expert heads the G.O. Group, which seeks to achieve a balance between economic progress and spiritual values. His company is engaged in projects designed to help the poor and the oppressed. He uses films as a way of relaying his message to the world.

JOHN Regala and Jackie Woo in "Total Aikido."

"My heart bleeds for those who are victims of an unjust society," says Ogami. "That is why I am doing my best to somehow make a difference in this world by promoting a new outlook in life, based on my philosophies."

Graduation day

SCHOOL graduations mark an end and a beginning. It is the end of daily interaction and association with school friends and teachers, and of formal learning characterized by assignments, exams, research and reports.

New dimension

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

It is a reminder that in this life, things come and go, that material connections and events never endure. Once you start feeling that you've got things wired and are now adjusted to a familiar situation, you get thrown into a totally new dimension.

You somehow reach the top of the ladder in school—the senior level—but then you're out of the scene and you've got to start out from scratch again. You're at the bottom rung of a new ladder—a neophyte, a beginner.

The new struggle begins—to seek out a new position in society, to acquire new friends, to fit into the system by fulfilling new requirements.

There are still researches, reports and assignments to be submitted. Even exams need to be passed once in a while. You finish one type of training and you have to go through another one.

And finally, when you get called on for the "final graduation," you take a final bow and leave everything behind. Even your physical body is taken away.

Someone once asked, "What is the value of a beautiful painting if we know that it is destined to be thrown into the fire and burned to ashes?" What is the value of our life if we have to leave everything behind?

Perishable

Indeed, a person who lives for the temporary and strives for the perishable is simply wasting his time. If our education focuses our mind and heart on the achievement of material fame and prosperity, then we are like children playing a game of musical chairs.

We are chasing after chairs that will sooner or later be pulled out from our reach. And we end up losers, feeling quite empty and lonely.

However, right now, we are offered a chance to enroll in life's training school, to learn how to fly an airplane that will bring us home—away from this temporary world of musical chairs, short-lived relationships, changing times and debilitating ignorance of the truth.

We are away from our real home and there is a chance that we can escape from this prison cell that we've built for ourselves (locked in by ignorance, fears and anxieties).

There are spiritual mentors who can teach us the way to fly the plane to freedom. We have to sincerely desire to learn and humbly work to change our crippling attitudes and lifestyles.

When the final examination is given, there will be no material relations or connections that can get you through the hurdle. No spouse, parent or friend can do it for you or with you.

At the time of death, you have to take the exam alone. No one is on that plane except you and the Supreme Authority and Controller. But, if you have learned how to listen to the Lord in the heart and know how to follow His instructions, you will be free from mistakes.

Choice

However, if you do not learn the lesson well, that plane could crash or end up in a totally different dimension away from home. You may not get off the ground and could simply want to stay in this miserable dimension. That is everyone's choice: to stay or not to stay; to fly or not to fly.

People who have analyzed the unhappy nature of this world and understood the need to seek out our real destination put effort into learning the process of liberation. They seek out wisdom and search for the truth. They want to prepare for that final examination and hope to pass it with flying colors.

School graduation is a new beginning that will hopefully encourage everyone to seek out the highest level of understanding and freedom. There is no higher rung for the human being to reach than his natural constitutional position of being an enlightened and subservient part and parcel of the Supreme. Let us strive to go home and happily take our bow when our real graduation day comes!

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Saturday SPECIAL

Next to Sharon and Aga, Donita Rose is the most sought-after product endorser

DONITA has been taking voice lessons in Singapore. Eventually, she hopes to fulfill a long-time dream and do a song-and-dance number with Gary V.

Donita can't believe all the blessings that are coming her way. She recently read an article about the highest-paid performers in Asia and was thrilled to find her name in the list

BY JOCELYN VALLE

WHEN we met Donita Rose a few weeks ago, the usually perky actress-turned-video jock looked concerned. She had just shot a commercial for Betadine feminine wash and she wasn't sure how the public would react to it.

"It's a good thing that there's a voice-over," she grins, her cheeks blushing rosier just like the deep pink blouse she's wearing in tandem with black pants and black mini boots. "I don't have to say 'vaginal irritation.'"

No need to raise your eyebrows. Donita simply feels uncomfortable uttering words like those in a commercial, wary that people might remember an ugly incident on the Internet. She's recovered from that traumatic chapter in her life, she shares, and she's moved on.

Donita is thankful to Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano of Manila Genesis, who welcomed her to the management outfit several years ago when her career was going nowhere. "Everybody was telling her not to sign me up because I would only give her trouble," she recalls. "But she saw my heart. She told me to repent and let God into my life."

Now Donita can't believe all the blessings that are coming her way. She remembers reading an article about the highest-earning performers in Asia and was thrilled to find her name in the list. It's definitely a long way from the P1,000 she used to get from "That's Entertainment."

At the same time, Donita is worried that people might think she's really rich. "I only look rich," she quips, reminding us of her bubbly persona on the premiere music channel. "I never thought I'd be a VJ," she hastens to admit, as if reading our minds.

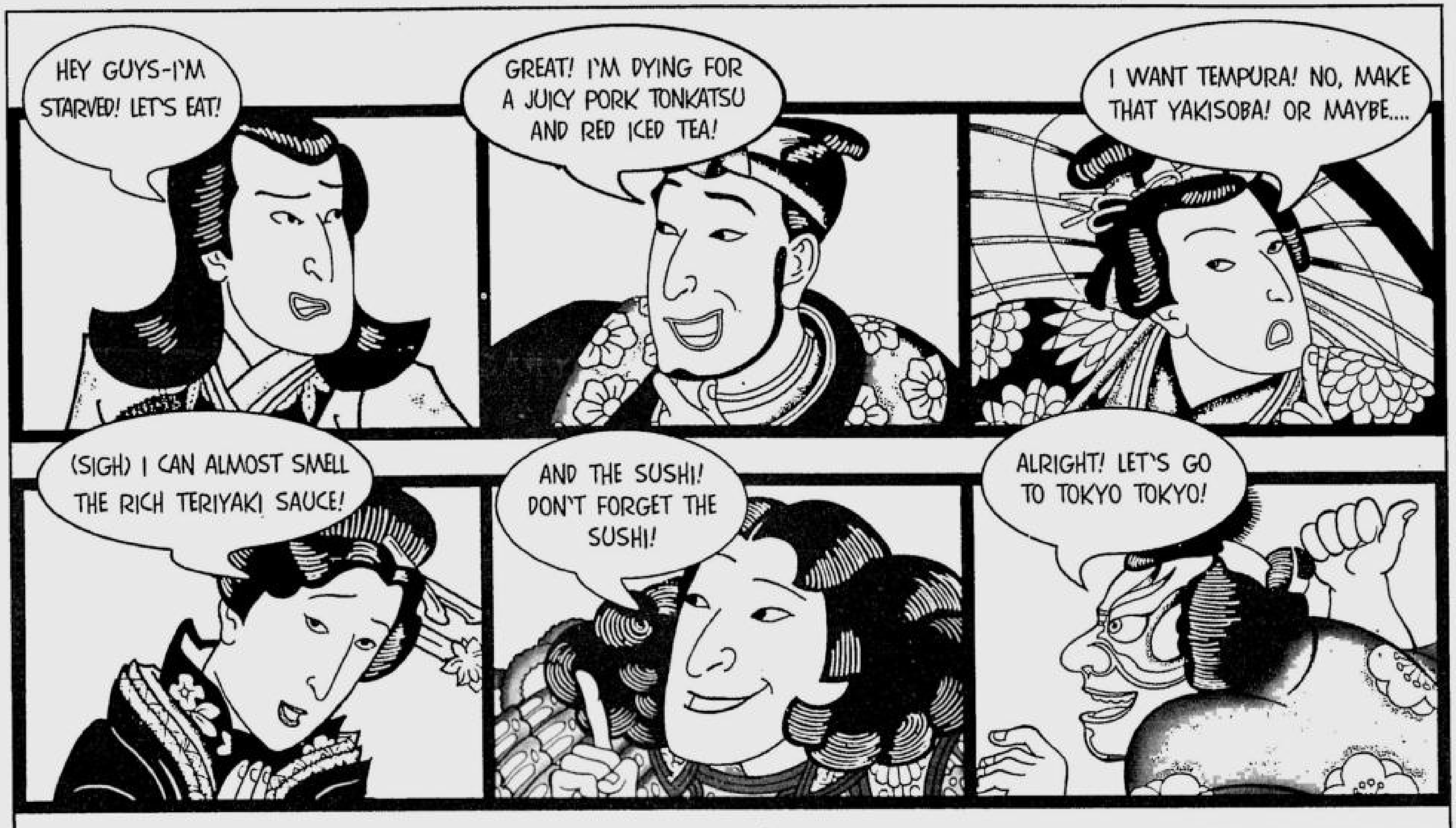
"I can't really talk about a certain subject for hours. I'm not much of a debater," she acknowledges her weakness. "I like it when there's a ready script and I'll only add some things like my two-liners, where, I think, I'm good at. I just want everything light and entertaining."

VJ Donita sure enjoys her job and singles out "MTV Screen" as her favorite program, but sometimes boredom inevitably creeps in. "We tape in bulk," she informs us, "and after a while, it's hard to keep a high level of energy." Fortunately, the production listens to her and gives her ideas a shot.

"Things are getting more and more exciting because I do other things," she beams. Such as? "Singing!" she shrieks. "When I'm on MTV, I joke a lot about singing. I tell viewers that I'm taking the place of the guest artist since she's not around. And they believe me. They keep asking when my album's coming out!"

Donita is taking the singing joke seriously, too. She's been attending the classes given by Grace Conde, a Filipino who's trained a lot of singers in Singapore. So far, so good. But Angeli still won't book her for a singing assignment unless she's really ready for it.

NEXT/p.F2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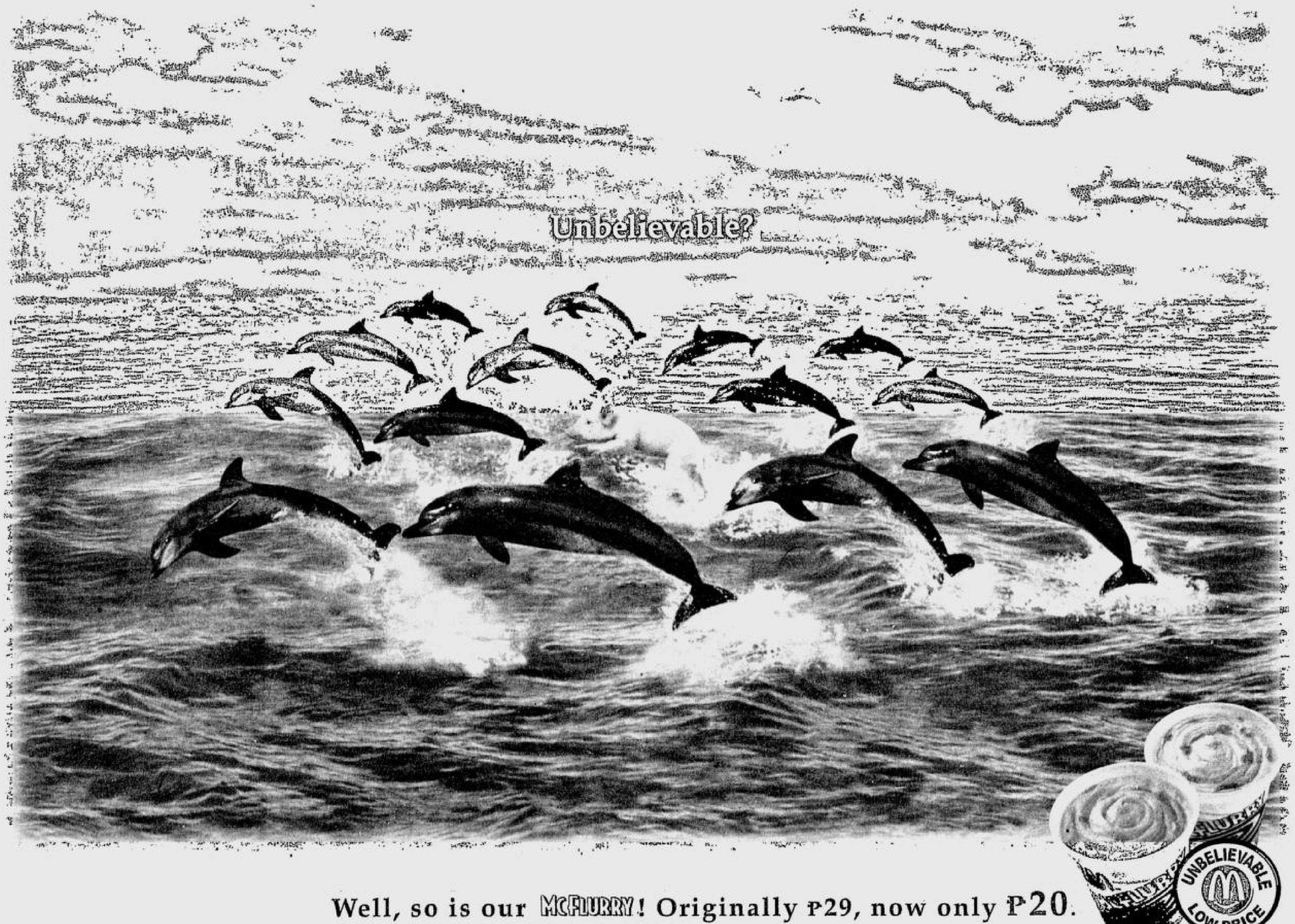

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Side A performs in Baguio City

AFTER a three-year wait, Baguio City will finally be able to watch Side A in a major concert. The show will be staged at the University of Baguio gymnasium on April 7 at 8 p.m. Side A will also promote their latest album "Will I Ever" under Warner Music.

MONTAGE

"Side A Live in Baguio" is the initial presentation of Sound Qoncept, made up of six gentlemen, Heinrich Ngo, Roy Stephen Sio, Jackson Tin, Gerwin Dy, Alfredo de los Santos and Alfonso de los Santos. Call 714-2897, (074) 443-5163, (074) 445-6945.

TV satire premieres tomorrow

It's back. Right in time with People Power 2 and the political reawakening of the Filipino people, ABS-CBN's "Eto Na Ang Susunod Na Kabanata" premieres tomorrow, April 1 at 8:30 p.m., replacing "Richard Loves Lucy." Featuring many of the characters of the satire "Abangan Ang Susunod Na Kabanata," "Eto Na" showcases the comedic work of Tessie Tomas, Noel Trinidad, Sammy Lagmay, Nanette Inventor as well as Candy Pangilinan, Serena Dalrymple, Michelle Bayle, Nikki Valdez, Gabe Mercado, Berting Labra, Denise Joaquin, Frank Rivera and Jon Santos. As in the first series, Joey Javier Reyes writes and Johnny Manahan directs.

NOEL Trinidad and Tessie Tomas in "Eto Na and Susunod na Kabanata."

Joey's April specials

Joey keeps your sunny side up this April. It salutes the new graduates with "Thank God It's Over" at 9:30 p.m. on April 20 with an all-night street party at with the Mulatto band at the Nakpil strip in Malate.

At Strumm's Makati, "Joey's Night Rhythms" returns all Wednesday nights of April with Soulid and Toy Symphony.

Then Joey invites you to Seattle's Best with "Java Jivin' with Joey" on April 6, 20, 27 and May 4. Enjoy a soothing Friday outing with flute and guitar music starting at 7 p.m. at Seattle's Best at SM Megamall, Rockwell, Greenbelt and E. Rodriguez, Quezon City.

Then watch Joey's film offering, "Sweet November" starring Keanu Reeves and Charlize Theron on April 10 at the Cinema 6 of Glorietta IV. As an added treat, join the "Sweet November My Life's Top 5 promo and win a free stay at True Homes in Boracay. Tune in to Joey@92.3 FM for details.

Trumpets Playshop

Starting April 2, Trumpets Playshop offers 30 different classes at the Shangri-La Plaza Mal, the Alabang Town center, the Glorietta in Ayala Center, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and SM Cebu City.

Classes offered include Acting for Children, Teens and Adults, Musical Theater, Stage Management, Photography, Voice, Street Dancing, Jazz, Song and Dance, Ballet, TV Production, Light and Sound Design and TV Newscasting.

Call 636-2842 or 633-5010.

Wolfgang at the Republic

Wolfgang performs at the Republic of Malate today at 9 p.m. for an unplugged concert. Catch "Wolfgang Acoustica" before the band goes on a concert tour in the US.

Call Headline Concepts at 551-7251 to 54.

Boracay Body Search

The first leg of the elimination rounds for Boracay Body Search 2001 kicks off on April 2 at the Hard Rock Cafe in Makati. This will be followed by preliminary competitions at Mas y Mas (April 4), Limits (April 5) and O Two Bistro Bar and Grill (April 6).

The finals will be held on April 28 at the Pearl of the Pacific Resort. Winners will get P50,000 in cash and P 50,000 worth of prizes. Call Media Alliances at 929-1830.

NU's bar tour

NU 107.5 continues its Son of a Bar Tour 2001 on April 7 and 8 at Fort Bonifacio's Global City. The two-night festival will include live performances by the country's best bands, extreme sports activities and booths selling various merchandise.

On April 20, the final stop of the S.O.B. tour will feature the Radioactive Sago Project.

HBO feature on Aguilera

Christina Aguilera and her special guests, Li'l Bow Wow and Brian McKnight, are featured on April 4 at 9 p.m. on HBO in a concert special, "Christina Aguilera: My Reflection."

Fans will not only get to see Aguilera showing off her dancing skills but also a glimpse of the singer making a music video for her latest hit, "Come on Over (All I Want Is You)" and reminiscing on her hectic life as a teen sensation.

Other playdates for the special are April 9 at 10:30 p.m., April 17 at 4:30 p.m. and April 26 at 8 a.m.

Summer review classes

The tutorial and review center, MSA Academic Advancement Institute, begins its summer review and advancement program. Classes are scheduled on April 16 to May 26, May 7 to 26 and May 21 to June 9.

"MSA is not only identified with our intensive review program," says directress Merle S. Alferez. "Parents and children also come to us because they want their kids to take up advance lessons in Math, Science, English and other subjects. That way, the students won't find it too difficult coping with their classes next schoolyear."

Call 435-6062 to 63.

(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)

Live religious telethon generates 500,000 pledges

BY POCHOLO CONCEPCION

JACQUI Magno, Mitch Valdes and Jeanne Young were having a ball, minutes before the trio went on camera to render a surprise pop version of the "Salve Regina."

The occasion was the live telethon special that launched Family Rosary Crusade's "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" recently on the ABS-CBN New Channel. From the way the bantering went, it seemed like ages since the three women last saw each other. If so, the gathering saw them bonding happily again.

Bonding, happily, was the prevalent mood in the studio, and we presume it to be the spirit responsible for the more than 500,000 individual rosary pledges that were phoned in through the eight landlines that Bayantel provided.

"50 Rosaries for 50 Days" is a campaign that invites families, communities, organizations of whatever persuasion, and even individuals to try to re-experience the soothing effects of praying the rosary on a regular basis.

The proponents opted for the number 50 to commemorate 50 years of prayer ministry in the Philippines by Father Patrick Peyton's Family

LIVE/p.F3

Next to Sharon and Aga . . .

(From page F1)

Chuckling, she tells us that she used to sing live when, as a struggling young star, she was doing provincial shows. But, really, she wants to be more active in one of her church's ministries, that's why she'd like to sing well.

Then maybe she can fulfill one of her dreams -- performing live with Gary Valenciano. "We'd probably do some Christian songs," she replies when asked what she'll be singing with the pop star. Choreography won't be a problem since the two Genesis talents can make funky moves. "Dancing is my first love," Donita reminds us.

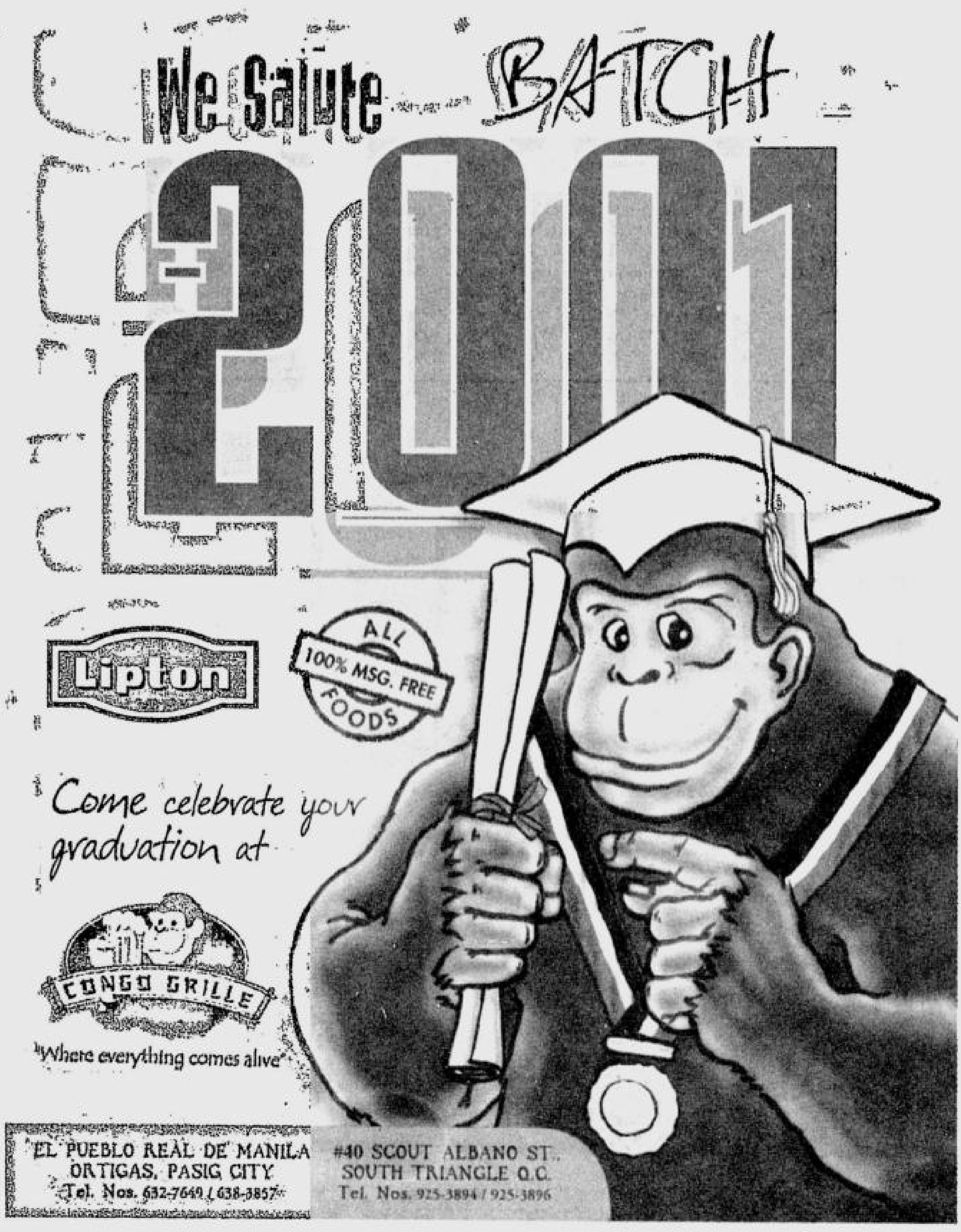
Another thing that helps the pretty *mestiza* snap out of monotony is her career here in the country. Donita regularly flies into the country for a myriad of assignments. In April, she's shooting a movie opposite Robin Padilla for Star Cinema.

She's not sure yet about her role but, if she had her way, Donita would like to do "weird" roles like the one she recently played on Channel 7's "Kiss Muna." "Whenever (mainstay) Arnell Ignacio wore this *blusang puti*," she relates, giggling, "he'd become me! And I would act like a *bading*. My manager was initially hesitant to accept the part for me, but I told them that I loved it."

The result was hilarious, as attested to by some people who've seen it. People just don't know that she can be funny, says Donita. We remind her of her new endorsement. Viewers who've watched it don't mind seeing her promote a feminine wash. They'll only wonder if it's endorsement number five or six.

It seems that, next to Sharon Cuneta and Aga Muhlach, Donita Rose is the most sought-after and credible product spokesperson. That should put Donita's worries to rest.

DONITA wants to play "weird" roles, for a change.



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FROM left, Family Rosary Crusade president Howard Dee, guest of honor Cory Aquino, FRC director Gennie Jota and Chin-Chin Gutierrez.

Live religious telethon generates 500,000 pledges

(From page F2)

Rosary Crusade.

The late Fr. Peyton first came to the country in 1951, sponsored by the Dominicans at the University of Santo Tomas. It didn't take long for him to nurture a close relationship with the God-loving Filipinos, hand in and hand with the assistance of a Jesuit priest, Fr. James B. Reuter.

It was Reuter who galvanized many of the guests to lend their time on the night of the telethon. Subas Herrero, Noel Trinidad, Gerard Sison, Tony Lambino and other Ateneo alumni didn't take much prodding. So did Young and Chin-Chin Gutierrez—two of many St. Paul College graduates fortunate enough to have gone under Fr. Reuter's theatrical tutelage.

Musical artists

The rest of the participating musical artists (UP Concert Chorus, Gian Moreno, Von Arroyo, Studio Heaven, Gary Granada, Renz Verano, Lance Raymundo, Bambi Arambulo, Rey Sison, Bobby Urgino, Bobbit Unson), entertainment personalities and religious folk (Fr.Robert Reyes, Fr. Joel Eslabra, Telly Samonera, Sr. Sarah Manapol) combined with pre-taped messages from Manila Arcbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president Oscar Quevedo, spokesperson Msgr. Jose Quitorio and Most Reverend Charles A. Schleck, C.S.C. gave substance to the cause of spiritual regeneration.

Rez Cortez, perennial bad guy onscreen, intimated how his macho image had become irrelevant upon his learning to appreciate praying the rosary.

Fr. Reyes, dubbed as the "running priest," shared how he has ignored friends' concern over his high-profile activism—saying that his efforts are being done the way the Blessed Virgin Mary would have appreciated them.

Backgrounder

Gutierrez gave the audience a backgrounder on the two self-written songs ("The Lady Returns" and "Flower of the Mountain") she sang with musicologist Jun de Leon on synthesizer.

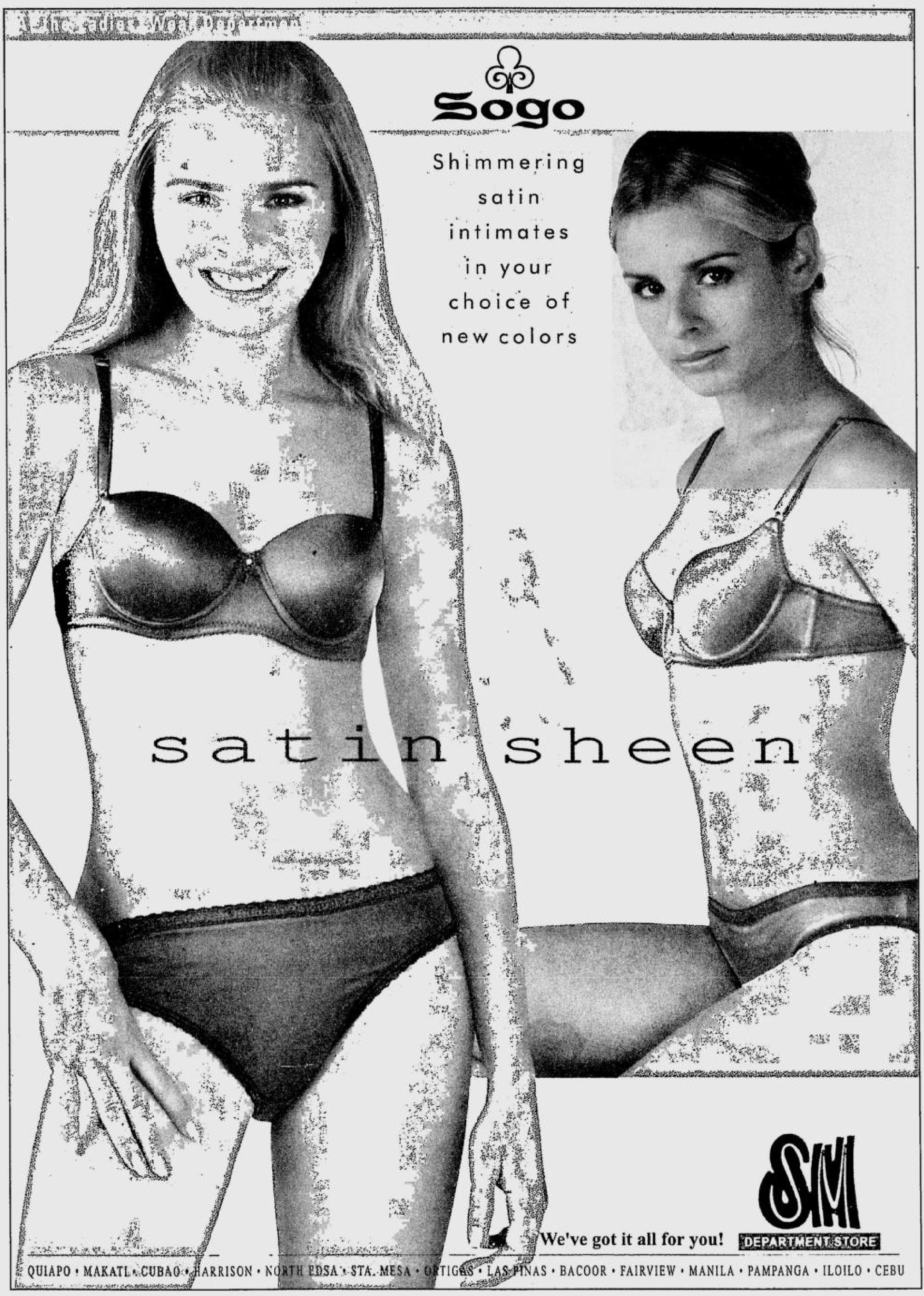
Granada had a profound spiel: "May our prayers unsettle and disturb our own peace, to remind us of the majority of many under-privileged brothers and sisters out there…"

Former President Cory Aquino visited early and reminded viewers about Ninoy's total devotion to the rosary and Our Lady of Fatima. She brought along two grandchildren, Jacinta and Francisco, both named after the young visionaries who witnessed the Virgin's apparition in Fatima, Portugal in 1917.

For two hours non-stop, the volunteers manning the phones had their hands (and ears) full as lines were clogged with calls from the provinces (Lucena, Cebu, Bukidnon) and even overseas (Saudi Arabia, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Michigan).

As more pledges come in through the FRC office (fax 522-0721), it looks very likely that the total number of pledges will reach the one million mark.

Will prayer power steer the course of the May 14 elections?



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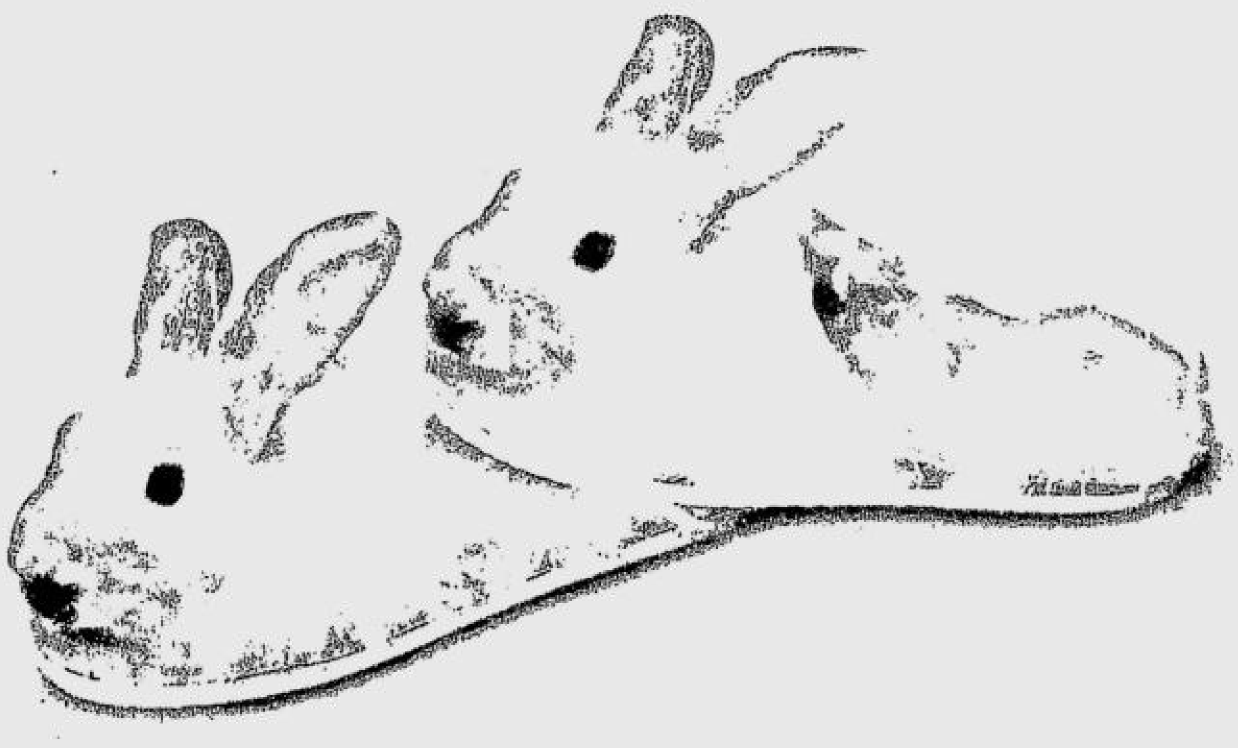

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Getting to know Jim Brickman through his songs

By Ricky T. Gallardo

HE WROTE big hits like "Valentine," "The Gift," "By Heart," and "The Love Of My Life." His well-loved "Rainbow Connection" from his "Sesame Street" days is now a classic. He's also responsible for giving good breaks to gifted Gospel artists like Martina McBride, Susan Ashton and Michael W. Smith to cross over to the musical mainstream.

Consummate artist

But Jim Brickman, consummate pianist, composer and artist, refuses to rest on his laurels. He again heats up the scene by dishing out another potential CD collectible, "My Romance: An Evening with Jim Brickman," under BMG Pilipinas.

Recorded live at Salt Lake City's historic Capitol Theater, the concert brought together some of Brickman's closest friends including vocaists Donny Osmond, Anne Cochran and Tracy Silverman, sax master Dave Koz, jazz artist David Benoit and the comebacking Olivia Newton-John.

We recently caught up with Brickman at the Discovery Suites, where we got the chance to delve into the man, the artist and his music, on a more intimate level Q and A:

How many times have you been to Manila?

This is my fourth visit.

Have you seen much of the Philippines?

Not really, but I'd love to be invited to Amanpulo, which I heard is beautiful.

Do your songs reflect who you are as a person?

I think so. I'm a very serious person. I don't like to waste time.

Respect

I can occasionally be short-tempered but only when people disrespect me. I always make it a point to respect others so I expect them to do the same.

Do you feel that some people have a hard time classifying you and your music?

Yes...like, I'm an instrumentalist, I play the piano. But most of my hits feature singers. And sometimes my song is country or Christian or ballad, so people have a hard time figuring out which box to put me in.

What's the longest time you've taken to write a song?

To be honest with you, the longer it takes to write a song, the less good it is. If a song is great, it finds its own way. There are songs I write that are good on demo. But they don't make me go 'Wow!,' so I don't include them in my albums.

BRICKMAN. "The longer it take to write a song, the less good it is."

Lyrics or melody first?

Concept first. All my songs were ideas expressed in titles before they were written in full.

Why are you partial to slow songs?

Basically because ballads get to people's hearts and souls faster and better because you're not distracted by the groove or the instrumentation as opposed to dance or rock music.

Do you have eccentricities when writing a song?

Not too much, although I do have a tendency to get up from the piano from time to time while writing. Or sometimes I walk away then come back. It clears my mind. Usually, when I come back, I see the keys differently and that's when the song starts happening.

Do you pressure yourself to surpass your past hits?

Yes. The pressure comes not just from my record company and my fans, but from me as well. I hate stagnation. Yet, when people ask me to write another "Valentine" or "By Heart," I'm humble enough to acknowledge that it probably won't happen.

Something nice

Funny, but when I wrote these songs, I didn't do it so I could have hits. I just wanted to say something, to feel something nice, that's all.

Let's talk about the concert that paved the way for this new album. Did you get to personally select the people who were part of the show?

I did. Basically, I chose my friends because the concert was a TV special and I needed to work with people I was comfortable with on-camera. We'd be up onstage together performing the songs and that's very different from just recording them. I needed to perform with people I had good chemistry with.

How was it performing with Olivia (Newton-John)?

It was truly wonderful. Olivia is a friend and during one of our tours, we both thought of writing a song, so "Change of Heart" was born. She's a great person.

Is there a song by another composer you wish you'd written?

"I Will Always Love You." I love it because it's very simple and it's not trying to be this grand ballad. You know, no bridge, just your regular-verse-chorus-verse. Sometimes, composers write bridges because they feel that they have to, and they go "Well, here comes the bridge so watch out for the big-band ending."

Solo spot

Besides, as an instrumentalist I need to have that solo spot where I can put in the instrumental. As a rule, I don't write because I'm supposed to. It's always because I *want* to.

What do you think of all these singers, specially here in the Philippines, wanting to become divas?

See, I don't get that. To me it should be about the *song* and not how high a singer can reach her notes. It's the message of my songs and how they connect with people that are more important to me. The focus should not be on the technique.

All this travelling and promoting—how do you handle the stress?

Well, I try to be careful about what I eat and I try to do cardio-vascular exercises like biking and swimming. I'd love to go to the gym, but my life on the road prevents me from maintaining a program.

How do you take care of your hands, your most valuable body parts?

Are they? (smiles naughtily). Well, I try not to jump out of an airplane or go roller blading—I'm serious! I don't go skiing because I just can't risk falling on my hands, or something like that. I choose not to put myself in situations that might compromise my hands' safety.

What can we do about our fractured film culture?

By Nestor U. Torre

WHAT *can* we do? First, we've got to admit that our film culture *is* fractured. (A colleague cracks that, before doing that, we should figure out if we have a film culture in the first place—but don't mind him, he's just being cute).

Obvious infirmity

Some film people think that our movie industry is doing pretty well, thanks—and that slap-happy attitude in the face of obvious infirmity is part of the problem.

They acknowledge the fact that some local film lovers are giving up on Filipino movies and patronizing foreign blockbusters in droves. But they say that doesn't mean that there's anything wrong with our movies, it's just the viewing public's colonial mentality asserting its stupid self once again.

On the less self-deluding side, other film people admit that a number of viewers have gotten tired of the formula flicks, the quickies, the cheapies and the sleazies that producers have been throwing at them for decades.

Positive response

That's why, they say, they have been trying to get their act together by giving viewers more professionally-produced projects, fresher film concepts, etc And they're heartened by the public's positive response to those relatively more innovative movie projects, which have emerged among the few hits in a generally flop-strewn movie season.

But we're talking fractured culture here, not hits or flops. We say that our movie culture is fractured as compared to how things were in the '50s and the '70s (the two Golden Ages for Filipino movies) because an increasing number of film people, including (shockingly) some of the movie industry's top leaders, have lost their love for filmmaking, and their respect and consideration for the movie audience.

Regional film awards

Time was when local filmmakers did think well of their craft and their audience. The Big Four studios of the '50s made formula films, but with care. And, each year, they produced a couple of "*pang*-award" movies that eschewed the commercial considerations of the day, and which won regional film awards that boosted the reputation of Filipino filmmakers on the Asian scene.

When the '70s came around, the major studios had been replaced by a host of independent production companies. While these new studios had little sense of tradition and standards going for them, the likes of Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal stood for outstanding and committed filmmaking.

In addition, enough of their movies did well at the tills for producers to hire other committed young filmmakers. The many fine and audacious movies that were made by these new directors re-established the cachet of Filipino filmmakers on the world scene after the sell-out period of the '60s, when the industry produced one smarmy sex flick after another.

Low periods

The point is, the industry has had its low periods in the past, but it's always been able to bounce back because there have been enough good producers or committed filmmakers to put the industry back on the right path of quality.

These days, however, not enough such "redeemers" are on hand to get the industry out of the rut it's been in for almost a decade now. For this reason, the next Golden Age of the Filipino film that was supposed to happen in the '90s (historically, cinematic Golden Ages come every 20 years or so on the local scene) simply didn't happen.

Short-sighted policy

What's gone wrong? The producers have gone very "commercial" and, unlike in the '70s when Brocka and company fought them, many of today's directors, including some of our best filmmakers, have opted to play along with this short-sighted policy of diminishing returns.

This desultory confluence of commercial producers and directors all too willing to compromise their standards has resulted in our current fractured film culture. For this reason, many of the movies currently produced are sleazy sex flicks and standard actioners. This is a disturbing reality that can no longer be ignored. If it is, the viewing public will protest.

Even when the sex productions are classy instead of sleazy, they still come up with precious little that's original and insightful, and their graphic sensual images continue to pollute the country's ethical landscape.

Legacy

In the guise of film freedom, many of our filmmakers are co-opting the fine tradition of quality and committed filmmaking that has been our legacy from our pre-'90s film artists. Sadly, instead of admitting that they have sold themselves and their audience down the river, some of our co-opted filmmakers vainly try to paste over the fractures with artistic puffery.

What can we do about our fractured film culture? Be more selective about our viewing choices. Support only the few filmmakers who do good, responsible work. And develop our own taste and good judgement when it comes to movies. When some producers and filmmakers fail us, we viewers must assert our right to the good films we deserve to see.

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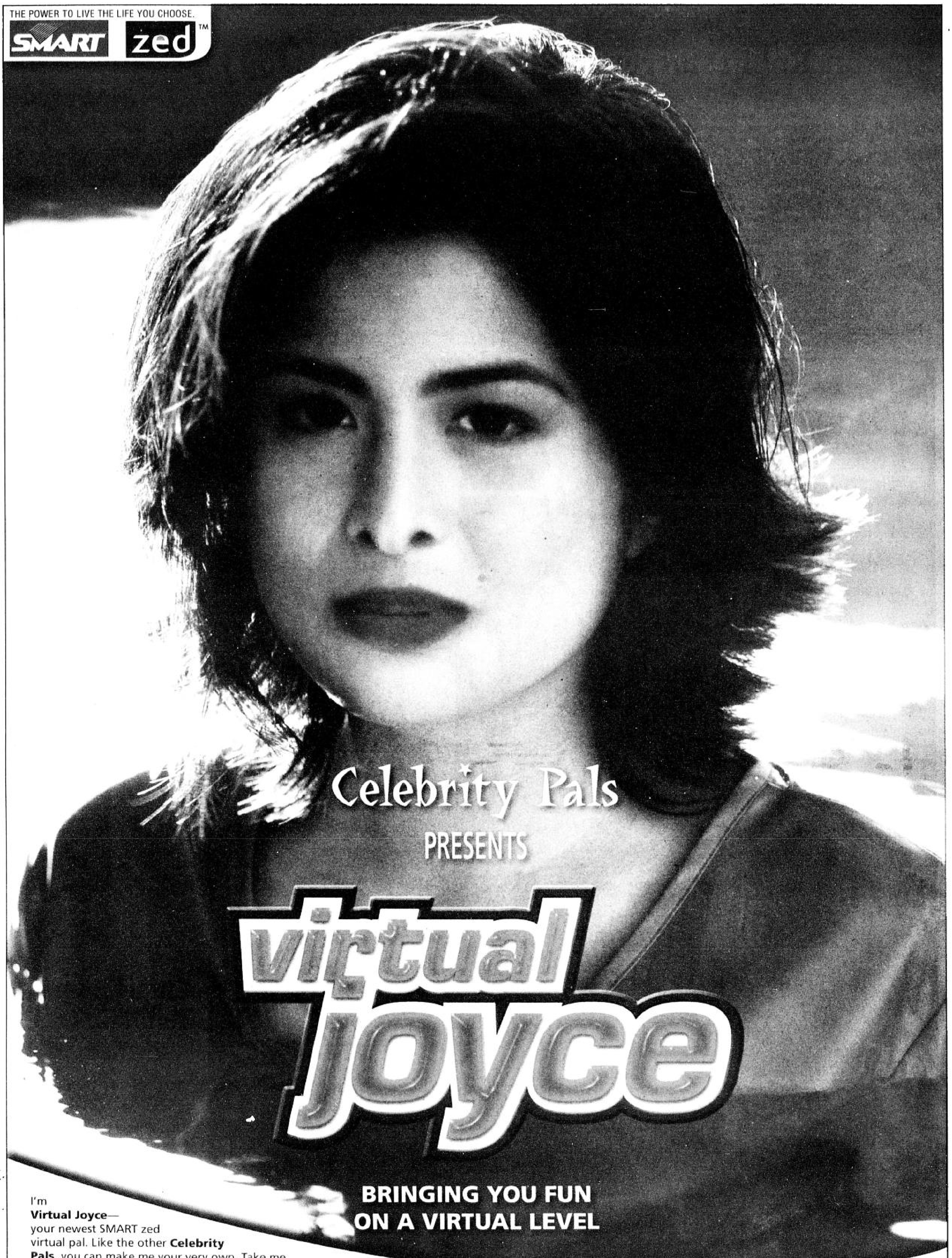

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10 YEARS AGO

Sharon-Robin starrer was the film season's top blockbuster hit

By Noelani Torre

Action king FPJ got a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Film Academy of the Philippines

BELTING it out on the radio at the end of March '91 were Manilyn Reynes and Ogie Alcasid with their much-awaited duet, ``Pangako." Called a "promising masterpiece," the song was composed by the two singers and was included in Manilyn's ``High Energy" album, intended as a follow-up single to her smash hit, ``Mr. Disco."

It was also the second single released from Ogie's "Pagkakataon" album. The song seemed to be following the footsteps of its predecessors as it conquered local radio's pop stations.

Promising album

Another promising album was the Apo Hiking Society's newly-released album, "Songbuk ng Apo," their first in two years. Critics lauded its 11 songs showcasing "genuine Filipino values, clean fun, romance and the now-familiar Apo humor."

Carrier single "Saan Na Nga Ba'ng Barkada," written by Jim Paredes, was deemed catchy and a potential chartbuster. With the other songs described as "harmonious blends" and "sure delights," fans were guaranteed great listening satisfaction.

Outside the country, heavy metal band Black Sabbath also released their new album, "Tyr." Capitalizing on the success of their previous album, "Headless Cross," they cranked up another gear to produce an inspired collection of hard, heavy and original rock tracks steeped in the traditions, myths and folklore of the Nordic war god, Tyr. What a contrast to Apo's clean fun!

Solo artists

Solo artists were also busy at this time of the year, 10 years ago. On the local scene, up-and-coming 21 year-old singer Viktoria was set to release a debut single with Octo Arts. Packaged as a pop-rock singer, she was then doing concerts all over the country. Her latest was "Nothing Like Davao," held in response to the warm reception she got there in another past concert.

In the US, Mariah Carey,who was fast transcending her title as "most sensational female discovery of 1990," came out with her third single, ``Someday." It hit the top spot on Billboard's Hot 100 Singles Chart, while the album grabbed the top post soon after. Mariah also copped two major Grammy awards: for Best New Artist and Best Pop Vocal Performance-Female (for ``Vision of Love").

Today, Mariah is still going strong but Viktoria's career seems to be at a relative standstill. However, she's trying to revive her career by sporting a Mariah look and crooning in Mariah fashion.

Meanwhile, in the movies, the Ricky Davao starrer "Takas sa Impiyerno" was raking in money and good reviews. The movie, an adaptation of Pablo S. Gomez's hit serial of the same title in United Komiks, was considered "unique" as it shot scenes of "fantastic" jungle warfare, a departure from run-of-the-mill action attractions.

Directed by Bebong Osorio, it used "costly high-tech weapons, novel stunts and props, extra-powerful blastings, thrilling chases, and awesome jungle traps."

APO HIKING SOCIETY. Their songs espouse "genuine Filipimno values."

Illegitimate son

Another action flick, Regal Films' "Joeyboy Munti: 15 Anyos Ka sa Muntinlupa" was set for release. Starring Aga Muhlach and directed by Maryo delos Reyes, it told the tale of a man who sired an illegitimate son whom he later kidnapped, which landed him in jail as a result.

"I'm proud of this movie," said Aga. "I consider it a milestone in my career. Now that it's about to be shown, I feel relieved after waiting for so long." The actor had waited two years for movie to be released.

The achievements of older stars were also being recognized. The Film Academy of the Philippines announced the recipients of their Lifetime Achievement Awards—producer Manuel de Leon and action king Fernando Poe, Jr.

De Leon was the producer behind LVN films in the '50s, considered the Golden Age of Philippine movies. He produced such films as ``Anak Dalita," ``Badjao," ``Biyaya ng Lupa," ``Ikaw Kasi," and ``Higit sa Lahat." His movies were recognized throughout Asia as well. FPJ, a living legend then and now, was lauded for his many contributions to the industry.

Special recognition

Special recognition was also given to three showbiz clans—Padilla, Salvador and Ylagan—represented by Rudy Fernandez, Leroy Salvador and Robert Arevalo, respectively. A special citation was also handed to megastar Sharon Cuneta and junior action king Robin Padilla, stars of the biggest moneymaker that year, "Maging Sino Ka Man."

On the international scene, Sophia Loren was awarded an honorary Oscar by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as one of the "genuine treasures of world cinema."

The Academy said Loren, who had appeared in 59 film since starting as an extra in the Hollywood production of "Quo Vadis" in 1949, had "in a career rich with memorable performances, added permanent luster to our art form." Loren first arrived in Hollywood in 1958 and starred in such films as "Boy on a Dolphin," "Desire Under the Elms," "El Cid" and "Arabesque."

Earlier, in Paris, she was also awarded a Cesar in tribute to her career in the movie business. The Cesar Awards are given out annually for outstanding achievements in the French movie industry.

Entertainment highlights remembered

IN 1961, Elvis Presley performed what would be his last live concert for eight years, at a show in Hawaii. He instead concentrated on his movie career.

In 1967, Jimi Hendrix set his guitar on fire in front of an audience for the first time, during a concert in London.

EASTWOOD. Married newscaster Dina Ruiz in March, 1996.

Reunions

In 1982, the Doobie Brothers announced they were breaking up. The Doobies have staged several reunions since then.

In 1990, drummer Tommy Lee of Motley Crue was arrested for allegedly exposing his buttocks during a concert in Augusta, Georgia.

In 1991, Donnie Wahlberg of New Kids On The Block was arrested in Louisville, Kentucky, for allegedly pouring vodka on a hotel carpet and setting it on fire. He pleaded innocent.

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee died after a freak accident on the set of the movie "The Crow." Lee had been shot with a prop gun that was supposed to fire blanks. He was 28.

Rescued

In 1995, singer Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam was rescued after a riptide carried him 250 feet offshore in New Zealand.

Also in 1995, Tejano singer Selena was shot and killed by the founder of her fan club.

In 1996, actor Clint Eastwood married newscaster Dina Ruiz.

Also in 1996, Phil Collins announced he was leaving Genesis.

In 1999, model Fabio was injured while riding a roller coaster as a goose flew into his face in Williamsburg, Virginia. *AP*

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Saturday SPECIAL

YAN. Had his share of "madness" at De La Salle U.

Stars share their wackiest school memories

By Jocelyn Valle

FINALLY, it's that time of year students have looked forward to since June – summer vacation! No more homework, quizzes, reports, research papers, demanding teachers, nosy seatmates and pesky freshmen. Then again, you'll also miss all the craziness you've had dealing with all those campus characters.

Foibles

Ditto for some of the entertainment industry's denizens—they have wacky school memories, too. (This may give you an idea for April Fools' Day tomorrow – that is, laughing at your and other past people's foibles.)

Rico Yan considers himself the serious type but that didn't stop ABS-CBN management from adding the TV-movie actor to the host lineup of its zany noontime show, "MTB," alongside fellow Channel 2 talents Marvin Agustin and Dominic Ochoa. Collectively, the three young stars are called the Whattamen.

Grinning, Rico admits he's had his share of madness in school, specifically at De La Salle University, where he earned his Marketing and Management degree. Several years ago, when he still hadn't entered show biz, Rico recalls going on bivouac as a requirement for ROTC. "My groupmates and I had to run around campus naked," he relates—adding, though, that the area was in total darkness at the time!

He also remembers some of his classmates showing up drunk in class, and others cutting classes. Was he one of them? He can only give us his trademark smile, with his cute dimples in their full splendor.

Swimming

Dominic, on the other hand, is gung-ho on and off screen. His wackiest experience in school was actually horrible. He was in fourth year high school at the Colegio de San Agustin in Makati and he had a two-hour PE class. "The first hour was for soccer and the next, for swimming. *Sa* swimming, '*di ba* shower then dive *sa* pool? '*Pag* dive *ko* one time,

STARS/ p.G2

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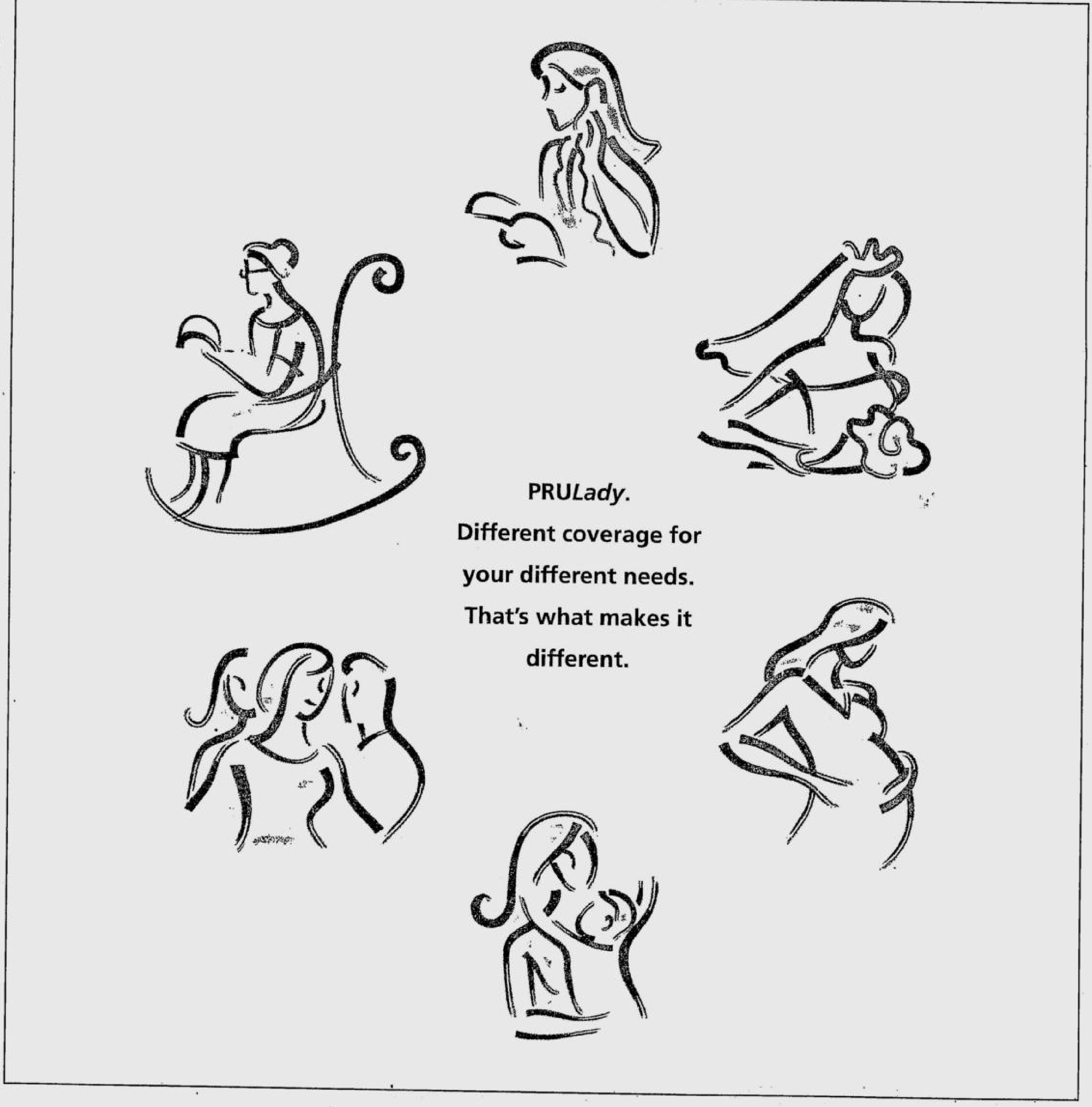

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Taiwan swells with pride over Oscars for 'Tiger'

BY PHINN HUANG

TAIPEI—As director Ang Lee stepped up to the podium to take the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, friends, family and film-goers in Taiwan swelled with pride and recalled the years he labored in obscurity.

Taiwan-born Lee's Mandarin-language "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which mixes gravity-defying martial arts with a heart-breaking love story, became the first film from the island to win a foreign-language Oscar on Monday.

Younger brother

The award-winner's younger brother Khan Lee, also a director, said his sibling richly deserved the reward after spending years quietly writing scripts and taking care of the children while Ang Lee's wife struggled to support the family.

"I didn't know Ang Lee was such a great director," Khan Lee told Reuters. "Had I known it, I would have treated him nicer while we were kids," he joked.

"Ang Lee is a great storyteller," he added, recalling their childhood before junior high school when his older brother would spin tales as they slept in the same bed.

"**CROUCHING** Tiger, Hidden Dragon" won the Best Foreign Language Film award, and its director, Ang Lee (inset) was a finalist in the Best Director category.

May Chin, leading actress in Ang Lee's "The Wedding Banquet," said the director had mentioned making a martial arts film while shooting the 1993 drama about a gay Taiwanese man and his disapproving parents.

Enthusiasm

"It's really remarkable," Chin said. "He deserves the awards because of his enthusiasm for films."

"He would turn something over in his mind, and make adequate preparation," she said in an interview. "I believe whatever he does, he would think it over carefully. So I really don't think his success today is by chance."

Khan Lee said the first seeds of "Crouching Tiger" were planted by a housekeeper who read martial arts novels serialised in newspapers to them after dinner while they were children in Tainan city in southern Taiwan.

Lee's parents, watching live Oscar coverage in their Tainan home, said they were a little sorry for Taiwan film-goers when their son failed to get the best director award. Steven Soderbergh won this for his drug thriller, "Traffic."

"When the film won several awards earlier, I knew by instinct that they wouldn't give him so many prizes at the same time," Lee's father Lee Sheng told reporters. "After all, the film had won four awards."

Original score

"I hope he can shoot better films for everyone in the future," he said after "Crouching Tiger" walked away from the Oscars with awards for original score, cinematography and art direction as well.

Despite a cast and crew that drew its talent from around the Chinese diaspora, including Malaysia, Hong Kong, mainland China and the United States, it was Taiwan that won the right to call the film its own.

All that's needed to claim a movie as your entry is proof of the nationalities of most of the key creative people behind the film, with special emphasis given to the writer, producer and director, according to Academy Award rules.

"It's already good enough for him to be nominated," said Agnes Tung, a housewife queuing to see "Crouching Tiger" with her 26-year old daughter Donna.

"He is a credit to all Chinese people," said pharmacist Donna Tung as she waited to see the film for the second time. "I am even more pleased because he's from Taiwan. Now he is famous all over the world." *Reuters*

TV PREMIERE

Predictable performances dampen impact of new TV soap

LAST Monday, Channel 2 unveiled its new weekday soap opera, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," with Claudine Barretto playing two women: in 1912, young Angelina who's forced to marry the older brother (Bernard Palanca) of the man (Carlos Agassi) she really loves, and in 2001, a typically fun-loving modern young woman whose faithless boyfriend (Troy Montero) gets on the bad side of her impetuous brother (Victor Neri).

Scope

The new soap's scope is impressive, with both its period and modern sections given big-scene treatment on the program's opening salvo last Monday.

Also noteworthy was the show's brisk pacing, a far cry from the tedious, stretched-out serial melodramas our TV channels used to churn out years ago. Local soap producers have really learned a lot from the Mexican telenovelas that have flooded our screens these past few TV seasons.

BARRETO. Time for some rest and reinvigoration?

"Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" should also be complimented for bringing Tetchie Agbayani back to our TV screens. She plays Angelina's mother, who is forced to marry her daughter off to a man she doesn't love so that his father (Ronaldo Valdez) will work for the release of her husband from prison.

Acting mechanism

On the debit side, however, Claudine isn't able to make either of the characters she plays interesting. Claudine has been playing lead roles in soap operas non-stop for years, so her acting mechanism may be in dire need of some rest and reinvigoration.

Why didn't ABS-CBN give her a chance to recharge her batteries before fielding her in this new production just a few days after her previous soap opera ended last week?

A possible reason could be the station's fear that a longer telecasting gap between the two soaps could have prompted its loyal viewers to sample the soaps on the other channels. Fair enough, but why should ABS-CBN's evening soaps *have* to star Claudine Barretto?

High ratings

It could be that Claudine's shows generate high ratings and the station is afraid that another female lead may not be as popular with viewers. But this lack of variety in casting lead players *is* a problem that the channel should address and solve, to avoid the predictability of some of the stellar performances on its TV soap operas.

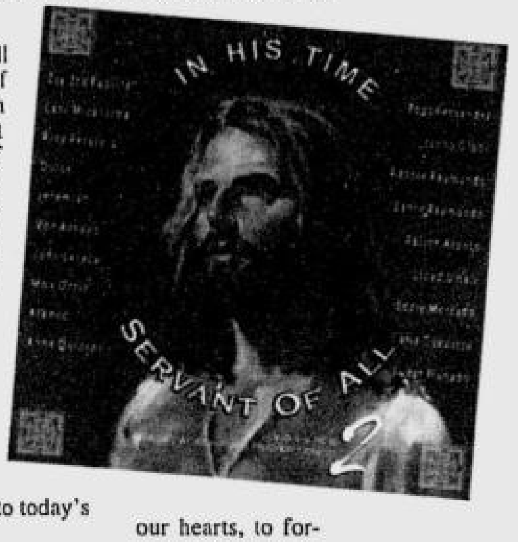
Another problem last Monday was Troy Montero's even more predictable and limited performance. Sure, he's a popular hunk, but he is not yet an actor. Also, he's been here for years, but he still can't act in Filipino and has to make-do by speaking as few lines of dialogue as possible—and in English.

Language lessons

Other Balikbayan actors have licked this problem by working harder at their

PREDICTABLE/p.G3

Viva releases another inspirational album



"IN HIS Time, Servant of All 2," the second in a series of inspirational album from Viva Records, was launched last Wednesday with a concert of religious songs at SM Megamall. Released in time for this year's Lenten Season, the album shipped Gold with 20,000 pieces sold on its very first day of release.

Produced by singer/actress Jeanne Young, who also came up with the idea for the successful series, "In His Time," "Servant of All 2" is a collection of songs, prayers and pieces for reflection ideally suited to today's stressful way of life.

"We pray that this album will help keep you strong and focused on the God who loves you," says Jeanne. "Many of these songs have been the battlecry of my family over the years."

Endorsement

Like the first one, the album has also won the endorsement of Jaime Cardinal Sin. "This is a very worthy contribution as we remember the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord," says the Cardinal. "These songs are words of prayer. By our words of prayer and our acts of contrition, we come before the Lord our King and ask Him to change our hearts, to forgive our sins."

The new album adopts a more pop approach to religious music with dance, rock and R&B sharing equal time with the usual inspirational ballads and gospel songs. This includes the title track "In His Time," a Diana Ball composition performed by Pops Fernandez.

Other artists featured in the album are Janno Gibbs, Zsa Zsa Ppadilla, Lani Misalucha, Rica Peralejo, Dulce, Jeremiah, Von Arroyo. John Lesaca, Moy Ortiz, Alamid, Anne Quintos, Rannie Raymundo, Lance Raymundo, Ralion Alonso, Lloyd Umali, Eddie Mercado, Carla Guevarra and Sweet Plantado.

Stars share their . . .

(From page G1)

three feet *lang pala 'yung* water *sa* pool! *Duguan talaga ako kaya lahat ng tao nag*-panic. I was brought to the hospital. And as souvenir, *ito*," he says, pointing to his nose, where part of the bone has been dislocated.

The former commercial model confesses he wasn't a model student in school. He cheated during exams and was even caught once in one of his classes at the University of Santo Tomas, where he completed his course in Commerce.

In contrast, Ogie Alcasid of GMA 7's "Bubble Gang" and "SOP" declares that he was well-behaved in school (La Salle Greenhills). "*'Di ako magaling mag*-cheat *kasi nerbiyoso ako*," he shares.

"School bus rider *din ako*," he continues, "*kaya lang parati akong naiiwan kasi 'di ko alam kung alin ang* school bus *ko. Umiiyak ako. Sinasamahan naman ako ng* security guard *sa paghintay ng sundo ko*."

So when he was in Grade 7, the singer-actor continues, he insisted on going home via regular bus. Feeling like a fish out of water, Ogie didn't call the bus driver's attention when they reached his bus stop. So while the vehicle was slowing down, Ogie simply jumped off the bus!

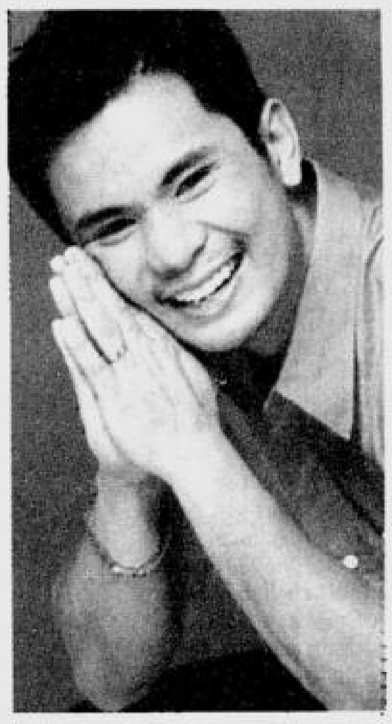
Ogie likewise can't forget an accident that happened at LSGH's laboratory. One time, he and his classmates were conducting an experiment for their science class. They were using Bunsen burners, test tubes etc. Something was wrong with the test tube of one of his classmates and – boom! – "*Nasunog ang* hair *niya*!" Ogie now remembers with a laugh.

Talkative

Ogie's costar on "Bubble Gang," Sherilyn Reyes, was guilty of being talkative in class. She was already in college, taking up accounting at St. Theresa's in Cebu City, when she had an embarrassing yet wacky experience. One time, she couldn't refrain from talking to her seatmate, who was also her best friend. The annoyed teacher told Sherilyn to take another seat, away from her best friend –and ordered her to face the wall!

She also remembers cheating during one exam. "We had to memorize three long chapters of a book," she explains, "so *gumawa ako ng kodigo*. I had a white hankie *na 'yung* one side clean and *'yung* other side *merong nakasulat na* answers."

Sherilyn was very popular in school. She was selected as muse twice, and was often a cheerleader and a participant in extra-curricular activities. Just like in her gag show now, Sherilyn has always been full of life.



ALCASID. Jumped off the bus.

Life in school was never boring for the members of Parokya ni Edgar. Chito Miranda (vocals), Gab CheeKee (guitars), DinDin Moreno (drums) and Vinci Montaner (back-up vocals) were batchmates at the Ateneo High School.

"*Madami kaming kalokohan pero hindi ako 'yung nag-i*-initiate," says Gab. "One time *kanu*-New Year *lang at uso pa 'yung watusi. May naglagay ng watusi sa ilalim ng upuan ng* teacher. *Pa- upo niya, pumutok 'yung watusi!*"

Wrong answers

Vinci adds: "*Nagkokopyahan kami ng buong klase. Pare-pareho tuloy kami ng* wrong answers! Like *dapat* 'richest' *pero ang* answer *namin* 'witchest.' *Tapos dapat* 'braveness,' *pero ang sagot ng buong klase*, 'branches.'"

"During CAT *naman*," DinDin interjects, "*'yung* commandant, *kapag nakatingin 'yung* head *ng* teachers *sa mga* students, *nagme*-make face, *kaya lahat kami natatawa. Hindi alam ng* teacher *kung ano ang nangyayari. At may* computer teacher *kami na akala namin* sidekick *lang, pero alam pala niya lahat ng* names *namin*.

"*Meron namang nakikipag-usap sa mga* plants! *Nagagalit siya kapag tumatapak kami sa* grass. *Sinasabi niya*, 'How would you feel if you were being stepped on?'"

Bassist Buwi Meneses finished secondary school at the Our Lady of Grace Montessori and one of his classmates for four years was actress Aiko Melendez. "*Akala niya, nabosohan ko siya. Sinampal niya ako* twice! *Meron pa siyang sinabi. Pero nagkatawanan na lang kami* after *niyang malaman na 'di naman totoo 'yung* accusation *niya. Nag*-sorry *din siya*," he recounts, laughing.

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Trends, problems discussed in recent cable TV congress

By Pablo A. Tariman

LOCAL and foreign movies are among the reasons why people subscribe to cable television, along with access to national and international news, sports round-ups, music, and cartoons for children.

This was learned from Ms Estrellita Juliano-Tamano, president of the Federation of International Cable TV Associations of the Philippines, which hosted the International Cable Congress and Exhibit which was held last week at the Philippine Trade Training Center.

Subscribers' requests

"We choose them by considering subscribers' requests," Tamano added, "The most popular so far are those available on two channels, Viva and Pinoy Blockbusters, then on HBO for foreign movies, followed by Cinemax, Hallmark and AXN."

FICAP has 1.5 million subscribers with viewership somewhere in the 5-7 million bracket. The big players, according to Tamano, are Skycable, Home Cable, and the Magsaysay Group.

Tamano, along with another cable congress organizer, Cecile Dy, said that another trend which is now widely accepted on cable television is distance learning, through which students can stay home while studying through cable TV. "Programs with cultural or educational contents are welcome inputs on cable television," Tamano and Dy pointed out. "These programs, properly marketed, can be commercially viable."

TAMANO. "Programs with cultural and educational content are welcome inputs on cable television."

Speakers

Among the speakers who graced the recently cable congress were President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Spencer Kaitz (president of the California Cable TV Association), and UE president Panfilo Domingo who spoke on the role of cable television in TV programming than can incorporate school curricula.

Tamano admits that the problems facing the cable network industry revolve around the low exchange rate for the Philippine peso as against the US dollar.

"We have to continuously contend with financial difficulties in subscribing to foreign and local programs at a high cost," she added. "We shall strive to address this by dealing directly with program providers and uplink our own programs in the Philippines."

Tamano said FICAP members will ask President Arroyo to set up the Telepono sa Barangay project and then allow FICAP to present and pursue a viable alternative for the implementation of this project.

Existing facilities

She said, "FICAP members who are operating in the countryside already have existing facilities which can be readily tapped and upgraded to serve the government-envisioned telecommunication needs of every barangay at a low cost.

"We are also suggesting that the pending Cable Bill be set aside by congress, and it should instead pursue the passage of a bill on convergence of technologies, which would allow a level playing field for both small and big players in the cable television industry."

Predictable performances dampen . . .

(From page G2)

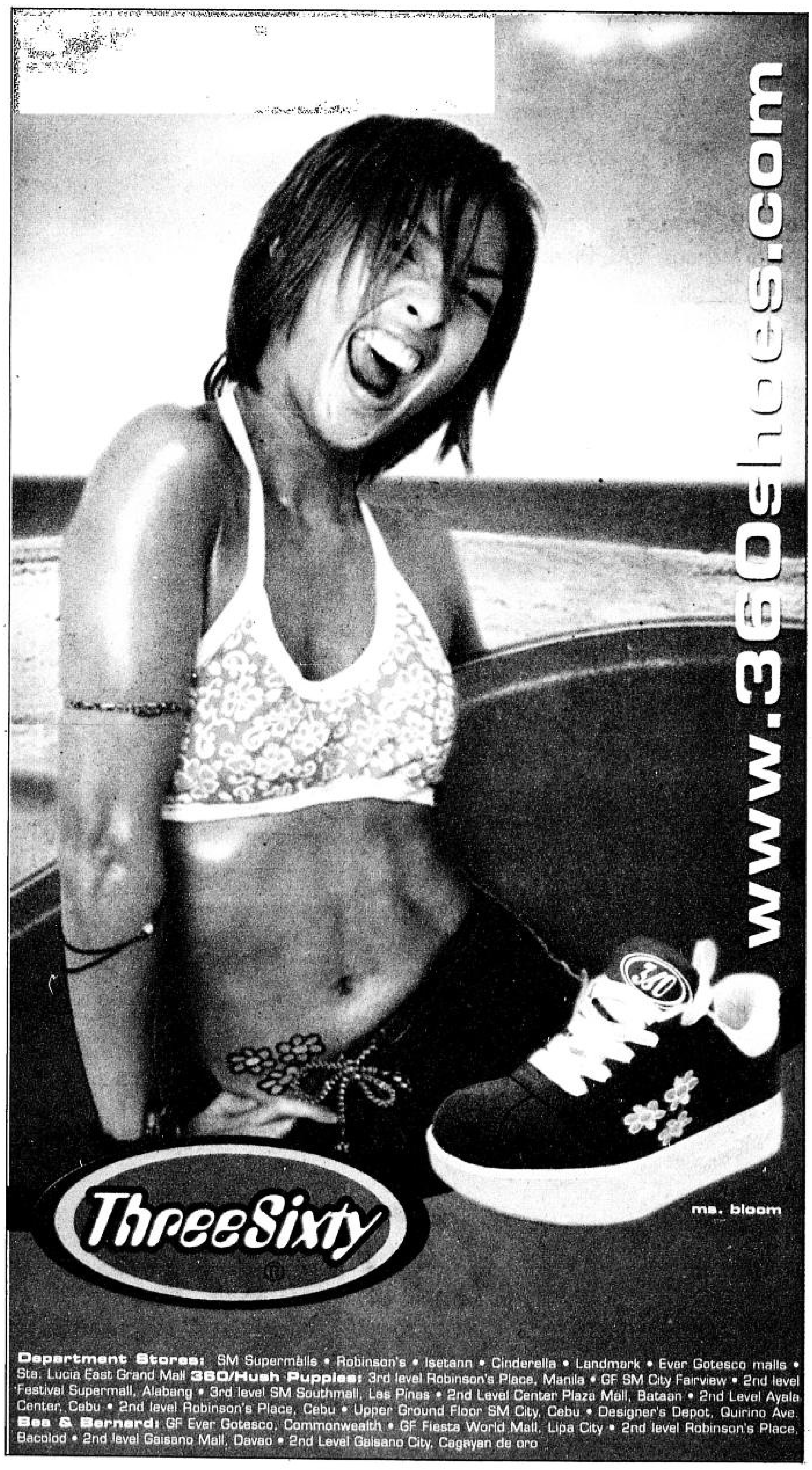
Tagalog language lessons, and have thus become busy talents on the mainstream entertainment scene. Troy should quickly make up for lost time in this regard, if he doesn't want to be permanently relegated to cameo roles and insufficient, awkward performances.

Carlos Agassi is yet another problem performer because he can't seem to generate genuine emotions, but at least he tries. Here's hoping that, one fine day, his efforts will bear good fruit. Sad to say, however, that day has yet to come.

Interesting premise

So, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan" has an interesting premise (past conflicts and romantic problems being repeated many decades later, and finally resolved), but the new series is bogged down by some humdrum and unempathetic performances.

Great production values can't compensate for mediocre performances, so we hope that the people behind this new soap first concentrate on bringing some of its leads' portrayals up to snuff before they worry about visual texture and impact. Icing is fine, but if the cake underneath is soggy, the sweetest icing in the world can't make up for that sorry fact.



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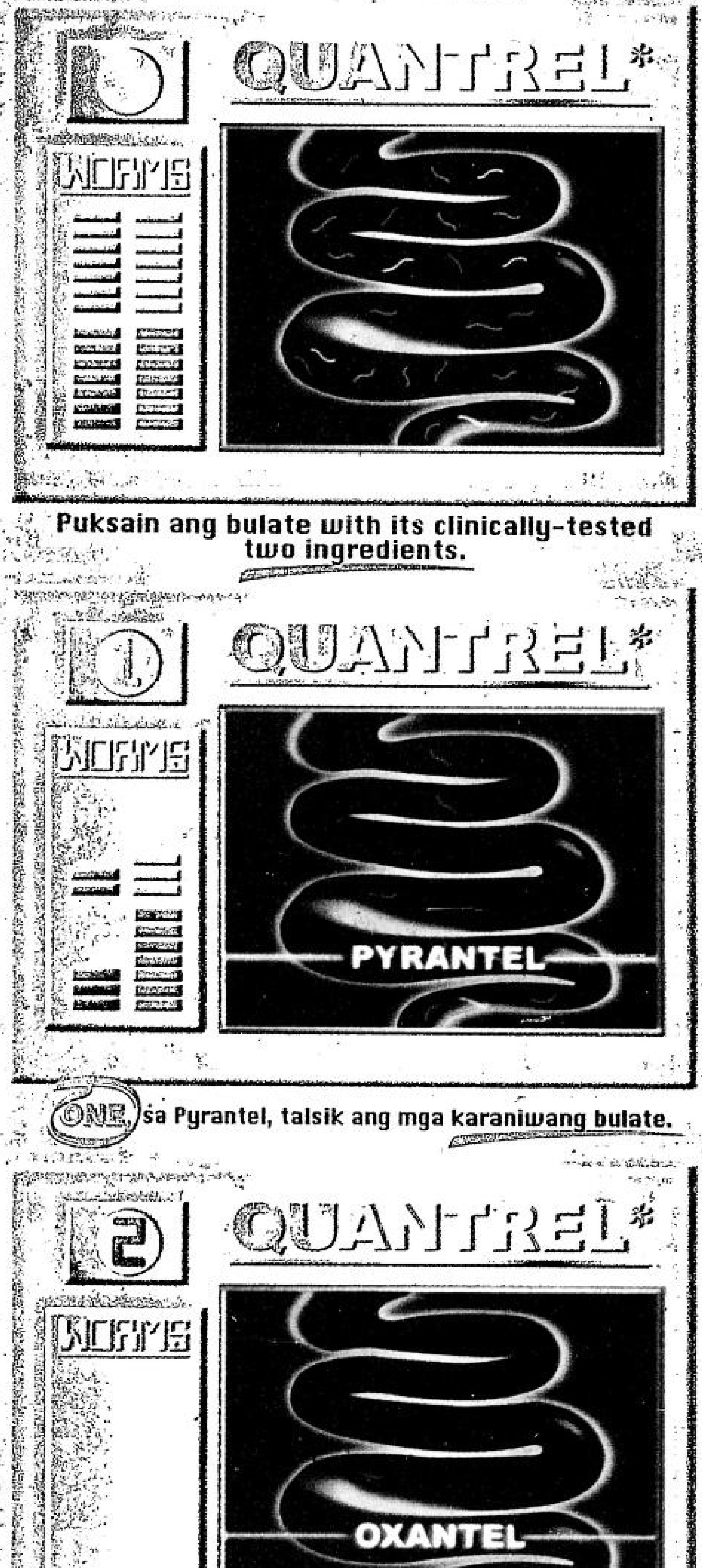

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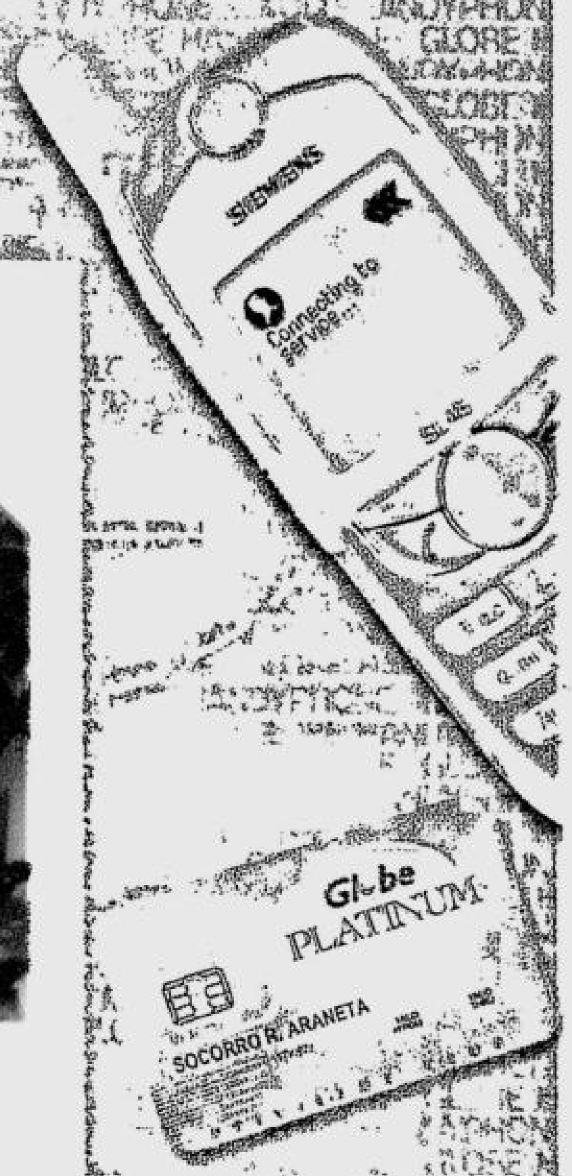
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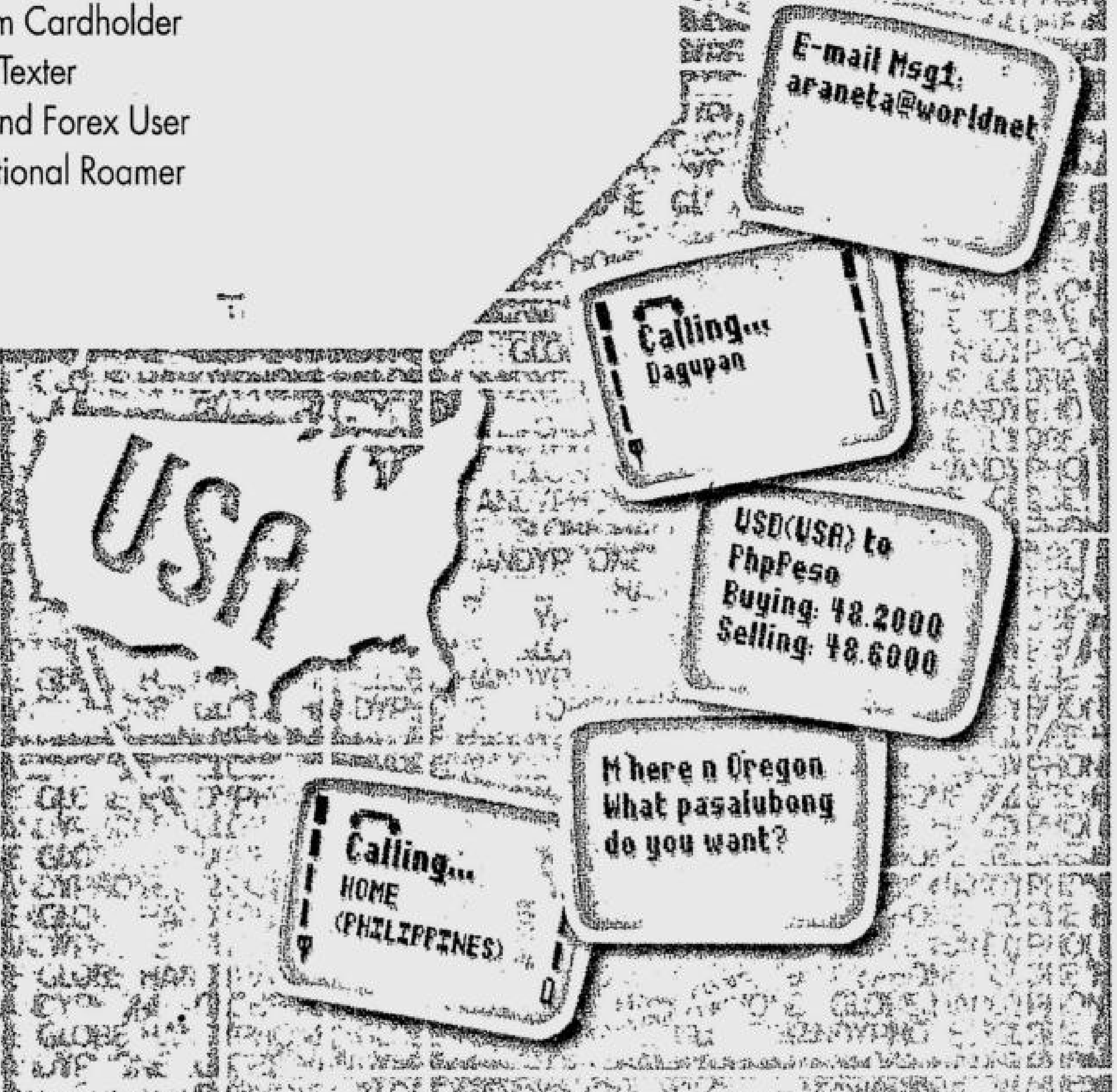
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(PHILIPPINES)

Socorro is used to a very fast-paced lifestyle. "Whatever project is thrown to me, I readily accept because **with my Globe I can hold office wherever I am** sent," she reveals.

Dependent on WAP, Socorro handles fresh correspondence everyday. "Through **Globe's WAP service**, I am able to **access all of my e-mails**, via my Yahoo mail, to which my company and other mails can be forwarded, especially in provinces without Internet service providers. **I need not bring my laptop anymore!** This I mastered when I was active in the trade," she tells us.

Now as General Manager of EAC, Socorro gets more **foreign assignments**. Thus, she benefits from **International Roaming (IR)** activation a lot. She claims: "Whichever country I visit, **Globe always has a partner provider**. I can just **text or receive text to save on overseas calls**–unless the message requires discussion. Of course, my **regular forex advisory** helps when I shop for *pasalubong*."

A **Platinum subscriber**, Socorro appreciates the **first-rate customer service** accorded her by her regular account executive. "Like, for IR activation, what I just do is text to advise her. She'd respond right away. When I went to Oregon last January, since their network was not GSM, she arranged to have **a tri-band phone lent to me** since I don't own one yet. And it was delivered two days ahead of the scheduled trip—**hassle-free**!"

Globe makes her transactions memorable as well. "Just recently, I received an invite to a formal dinner. I begged off telling them it's a special day for me. So I wouldn't totally miss the event, what the account executive did was bring me a cake. I don't even know how they found out it was my birthday! It was totally unexpected!" she beams.

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Jude Law is magnetic in 'Enemy at the Gates'

The charistmatic young actor plays a legendary Russian sniper in Jean-Jacques Annaud's war epic

LAW (center) and othe actors play soldiers fending off an attack in the Battle of Leningrad sequence of his latest movie.

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE

NEW YORK—Jean-Jacques Annaud apparently was so impressed with "Saving Private Ryan," he not only wanted to duplicate it, he wanted to top Steven Spielberg's body count.

Impressive

As director, producer and co-writer, Annaud has created in "Enemy at the Gates" an old-school World War II epic that's impressive in its vastness. The Battle of Stalingrad scenes are thunderous, bloody and bleak, as well they should be. But despite a strong cast and occasional flashes of creativity, the cat-and-mouse action thriller by Annaud—whose previous films include "Seven Years in Tibet," and the Oscar-winning "Black and White in Color"—is boring.

Jude Law has a typically magnetic presence, though, as legendary Russian sniper Vassili Zaitsev. It's autumn 1942, and as Vassili informs us in a melodramatic voiceover at the film's beginning, "Europe lies crushed beneath the Nazi jackboot," one of many cringeworthy lines.

The Russians are getting decimated, and they need a hero. Propagandist Danilov (Joseph Fiennes) realizes Vassili is perfect: He's earnest, he comes from humble beginnings in the Urals, and he's a dead-eye.

Danilov convinces the Stalingrad front's top political commissar—future Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev (a bit of a caricature in real life who gets a cartoony characterization by Bob Hoskins)—that writing about Vassili will give his people hope.

Problem

As Vassili's fame grows, the Germans realize they have a problem, so they send their top sharpshooter, Major Konig (Ed Harris), to take him out.

The showdowns between these marksmen should be the most suspenseful parts of the film. Granted, they do produce some moments, especially one in which the two snipers spy each other's reflections in pieces of glass that have fallen during a bombing.

But Konig doesn't enter the film for about 40 minutes, and he and Vassili don't pursue each other so much as they circle and stumble toward one another.

Konig also would have been a more formidable villain if his character had been developed more thoroughly. We never really know what drives him, let alone his first name. He mentions in passing that his son, also a soldier, died in battle. But his stoicism weakens him and undermines the drama.

Feisty

"Enemy at the Gates" also would have functioned just fine—better, probably—without a romantic subplot. Vassili falls in love with the smart, feisty Tania (Rachel Weisz), who's helping protect her neighborhood as a soldier.

Danilov also falls for Tania. But for all their individual talent, these actors create no romantic sparks. Danilov is too whiny to be a torrid, wartime love interest. And Vassili and Tania take part in what has to be the most unsexy sex scene ever between two gorgeous people. They grope each other on the floor, beneath a blanket, surrounded by rubble and snoring Russian soldiers. Who wants to watch that? *AP*

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The man who helped topple a president

GOVERNOR Singson displays the celebrated black bag.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

AT THE Manila Yacht Club, leading lady journalists in the Philippines streamed into one of the reserved rooms one by one. There were Eggie Apostol and Lorna Kalaw-Tirol of Pinoy Times, Deedee Siytangco, Nelly Sindayen of Time Magazine, Maan Hontiveros, Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, Domini Torrevillas and Ellen Tordesillas.

Bodyguards

We were asked to have lunch as the guest of honor had not yet arrived. Soon, he walked in, preceded by his sister, staff and bodyguards. After the preliminaries, he sat down to tell his story. And what a story it was.

On hindsight, you may forget many of the details of his story. But one thing you will remember most accurately: that he spoke of billions of pesos being plundered in the most unimaginable ways by the most impossible suspect of all.

He told us of several attempts on his life, and of his immediate decision after the first: "*Magsusumbong ako sa taong bayan.*" And he did. He went to town with his story, spilling the beans, unzipping his lips and telling the most incredible tale of corruption and plunder by the very man who had pledged to serve the poor. Instead, this man made money for himself, manipulating stock market sales and earning commissions from them as well as on corporate mergers.

Black bag

Governor Chavit Singon related how he brought his black bag containing millions of pesos to the man in the palace for many, many months.

All this is part of Philippine history now. These events led to Edsa II and the birth of new heroes, among them, Governor Chavit himself. Funny thing is, even today, he remains unaffected by his celebrity. He makes short comments. He does not try to be witty or funny. He is almost embarrassed when paeans are heaped on him. He does not seek flashy company and he remains calmly aware that his life will always be in danger.

"I just have to be careful all the time. Danger is already part of my life," he casually and calmly says.

Bravery

His bravery in the face of death is already legend among the many people who remember him facing up to the wrath of former President Ferdinand Marcos in the Ilocos Sur politics of the '70s and the '80s. That is why people in the know shook their heads when the former president tangled with Governor Chavit.

"He picked the wrong guy. *Kung kay* Marcos *hindi umurong yan, kay Erap pa?*" Meaning, if he didn't back down versus Marcos, why did they think he would do so before Erap?

Indeed, to have outlived Marcos and to remain very much a political kingpin can be attributed to the excellent survival skills of Governor Chavit. But to us, his daring to tell the truth when it mattered most to the country, and then unflappably going through the entire trying episode of unseating a powerful president, all this exuded the best of street smarts. Governor Chavit has it, in heavy doses, as loaded as he is with charm and conviction.

SINGSON (center) with (from left) Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, Ellen Tordesillas, Maan Hontiveros, the author, Nellie Sindayen, Eggie Apostol and Belinda Olivares-Cunanan.

Mandy Navasero conducts her annual summer photoworkshop beginning April 7 to May 26 and a Holy Week Phototrek on April 12, 13, 14 & 15.

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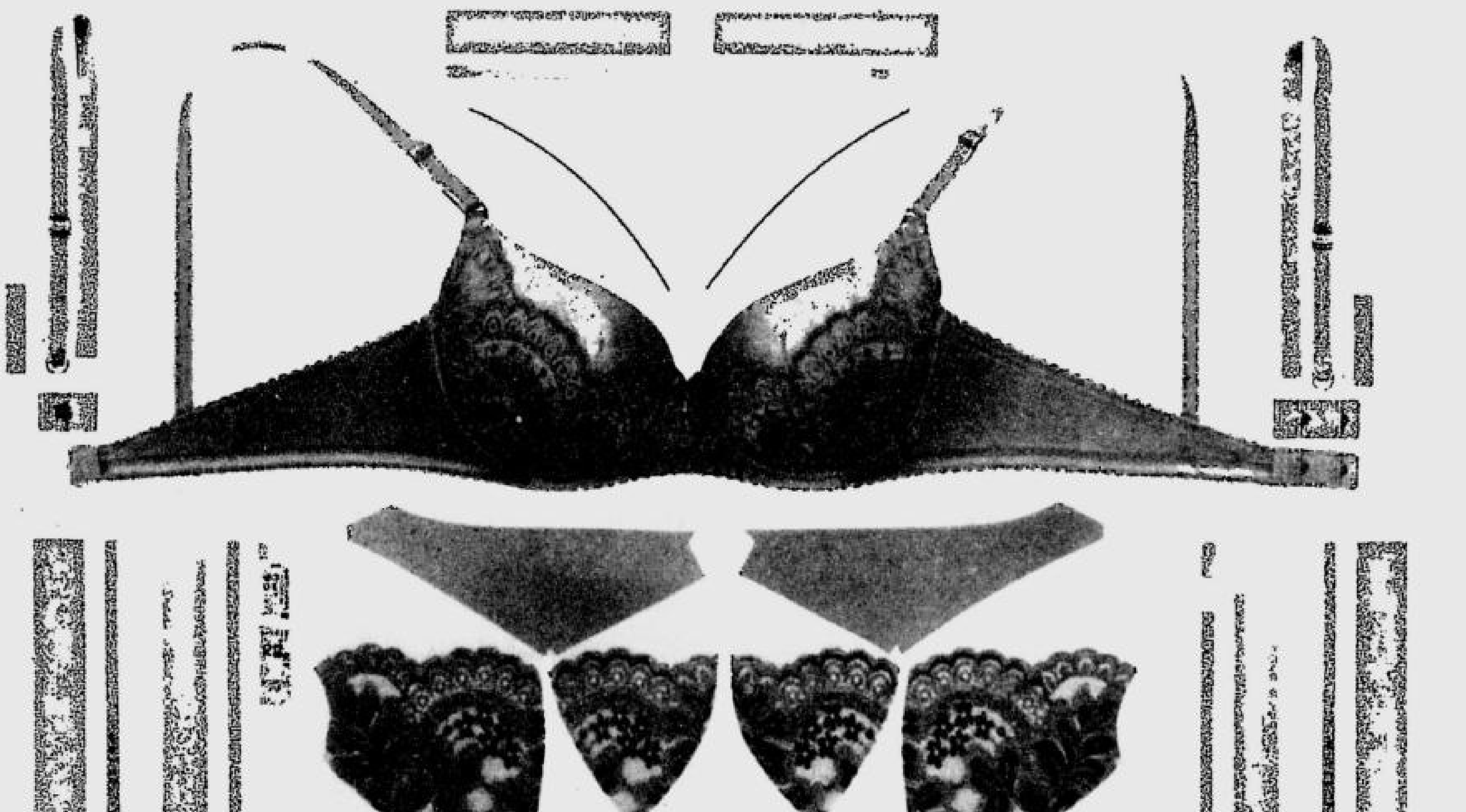

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Grim prospects for show business pervade Oscars

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

LOS ANGELES—The applause at last Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony came with a fair share of handwringing this year.

Traditionally a time for celebration, the prospect of strikes by writers and actors, dwindling box-office returns and the shuttering of theaters nationwide has dampened the Oscar euphoria of 2001.

Scared

"We are scared," said DreamWorks SKG executive Jeffrey Katzenberg. "Anybody who says they're not scared isn't being honest."

The entertainment industry's dark economic outlook has created anxiety at the studio, he said, despite its 18 Oscar nominations this year, including 12 for best-picture contender "Gladiator."

The usual revelry has been sidelined by serious concerns "personally, professionally, for our colleagues and families," Katzenberg added.

Some industry insiders say discussions about the Oscars frequently start with "Who will win?" but end with "What about the strikes?"

"I've heard it another way," said Robert J. Dowling, editor in chief of The Hollywood Reporter. "The conversation starts with 'Do you think we'll have a strike,' and then it ends with, 'Do you think we'll have a strike. ... The topic is really dominating everything."

Morale booster

The Oscars, he said, may serve as a morale booster. After that, however, the industry will still face a period of tremendous upheaval.

Hollywood had record domestic revenues of $7.7 billion last year, yet it was the second straight year that attendance fell. The number of moviegoers dropped to 1.42 billion, down 44 million from 1999.

Meanwhile, 10 of America's largest theater companies have filed for bankruptcy protection since last summer, burdened by debt from constructing improved seating and sound systems.

To reduce costs, theater chains plan to close about 200 screens a month over the coming year.

Concern about actor and writer walkouts this spring has shaken everyone from top executives to crew workers.

The Writers Guild of America's contract ends May 1, while the Screen Actors Guild's expires June 30.

Asked about a breakdown in the writer negotiations, Julia Roberts frowned and told reporters at the SAG awards this month that it was too depressing to answer.

Another question

"Can we have another question?" asked Roberts.

Others remain optimistic.

Two-time Oscar-winner Tom Hanks, nominated this year for "Cast Away," said the potential for a strike has been blown out of proportion by sensationalized rumors.

"I don't think that there is going to be a strike," he said. "We have a long time before we even have to think that will happen."

Robert Iger, president of Walt Disney Co., said he was confident the industry would be able to put aside its uneasiness last Sunday "to celebrate creativity of the highest order."

AP

New Madonna video found too violent for MTV prime time

NEW YORK—One night only: the new Madonna video.

Or so says MTV, which has deemed the video for her latest single "What It Feels Like For A Girl" too violent for prime time.

MTV will air the video only once during a news segment about the video, a spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

VH1, which, along with MTV is owned by Viacom Inc., will also air the video only once at the same time as MTV.

Ironic humor

The video—directed by Madonna's husband Guy Ritchie, who directed the films "Snatch" and "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels"—stars Madonna as a "nihilistic pissed-off chick" on a crime spree and is filled with "ironic humor," Madonna said in a statement.

"The video shows my character acting out a fantasy and doing things girls are not allowed to do," she said.

The video is the latest of Madonna's to stir up controversy. Her 1989 video "Like A Prayer," which featured a combination of sexual and religious imagery, cost her a sponsorship deal with Pepsi. And her 1990 "Justify My Love" video was deemed too sexually explicit for MTV.

"What It Feels Like For A Girl" is the third single from Madonna's hit album "Music" on Warner Brothers.

Reuters

Movies on TV this week

On the HBO channel: Saturday, March 31, 6:30 a.m., "Deadlocked." 8 a.m., "For the Love of Benji." 9:30 a.m., "Resurrection." 11 a.m., "Plain Clothes." 12:45 a.m., "Incognito." 2:30 p.m., "The Last Man on Planet Earth." 4 p.m., "Madeline." 5:30 p.m., "Soccer Dog: The Movie." 7:15 p.m., "Ghostbusters II." 9 p.m., "A Lesson Before Dying: A True Story." 10:45 p.m., "8MM." 12:45 a.m., "Dangerous Liaisons." 2:45 a.m., "Whispers in the Dark." 4:30 a.m., "Fletch."

Sunday, April 1, 6 a.m., "Blue Moon." 7:30 a.m., "Saturday Night Fever." 9:30 a.m., "Twilight." 11:15 a.m., "Chips." 1 p.m., "Patch Adams." 3 p.m., "The Love Letter." 4:30 p.m., "Legal Eagles." 6:30 p.m., "Beethoven's 2nd." 8 p.m., "Death Becomes Her." 9:45 p.m., "When Trumpets Fade." 11:15 p.m., "Like Father Like Son." 12:55 a.m., "Patch Adams." 3 a.m., "Legal Eagles." 5 a.m., "Boys Will be Boys."

Monday, April 2, 6:30 a.m., "Murder in the Mirror." 8 a.m., "Still Crazy." 9:30 a.m., "The Players Club." 11 a.m., "Exiled." 12:30 p.m., "Lethal Weapon." 2:30 p.m., "Criminal Instinct: Love and Murder." 4 p.m., "King of the Hill." 5:45 p.m., "Sunset." 7:30 p.m., "Killers in the House." 9 p.m., "Dark City." 11 p.m., "Cool World." 12:40 a.m., "Lethal Weapon." 2:30 a.m., "The Players Club." 4 a.m., "Someone to Watch Over Me."

'Soapdish'

Tuesday, April 3, 6 a.m., "Avalon." 8 a.m., "Heart of Fire." 9:30 a.m., "Breach of Trust." 11 a.m., "Task Force." 12:30 p.m., "Soapdish." 2 p.m., "The Rat Pack." 4 p.m., "Forget Me Never." 5:30 p.m., "A Grrrl's Best Friend." 7:15 p.m., "Boomerang." 9 p.m., "Total Reality." 10:30 p.m., "Sex and the City 13: Take me out to the Ballgame/ 14: The Awful Truth." 11:25 p.m., "Used Cars." 1:15 a.m., "The Last Man on Planet Earth." 2:45 a.m., "Soapdish." 4:15 a.m., "Boomerang."

Wednesday, April 4, 6 a.m., "Legal Eagles." 8 a.m., "Let it Snow." 9:30 a.m., "When Trumphets Fade." 11 a.m., "Blue Moon." 12:30 p.m., "Beethoven's 2nd." 2 p.m., "A Lesson Before Dying: A True Story." 3:45 p.m., "Like Father Like Son." 5:30 p.m., "Boys Will be Boys." 7 p.m., "Patch Adams." 9 p.m., "Christina Aguilera: My Reflection." 10:30 p.m., "Dave." 12:20 a.m., "When Trumpets Fade." 1:50 a.m., "A Lesson Before Dying: A True Story." 3:30 a.m., "Twilight." 5 a.m., "Murder in the Mirror."

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 a.m., "King of the Hill." 8:15 a.m., "Someone to Watch Over me." 10 a.m., "Sunset." 12 p.m., "Jack Frost." 1:45 p.m., "Dark City." 3:30 p.m., "Saturday Night Fever." 5:30 p.m., "Chips." 7:15 p.m., "Lethal Weapon." 9 p.m., "The Love Letter." 10:30 p.m., "The Mummy." 12:35 a.m., "Jack Frost." 2:30 a.m., "Still Crazy." 4:15 a.m., "Lethal Weapon."

'Postcards from the Edge'

Friday, April 6, 6 a.m., "A Grrrl's Best Friend." 7:45 a.m., "Postcards From the Edge." 9:30 a.m., "Criminal Instinct: Love and Murder." 11 a.m., "Pleasantville." 1 p.m., "Killers in the House." 2:30 p.m., "The Players Club." 4 p.m., "Breach of Trust." 5:30 p.m., "Avalon." 7:30 p.m., "The Avengers." 9 p.m., "Death Becomes Her." 11 p.m., "Sex and the City 13: Take Me Out to the Ballgame/ 14: The Awful Truth."

DANNY Glover and Mel Gibson in "Lethal Weapon," showing on HBO on April 2 at 12:30 p.m.

11:55 p.m., "Dead Man on Campus." 1:30 a.m., "Boomerang." 3:30 a.m., "Killers in the House." 5 a.m., "Exiled."

On the Cinemax channel: Saturday, March 31, 6 a.m., "Goodbye America." 8 a.m., "Out of Sight." 10 a.m., "Cinema Secrets Ep 12: Effects for Laughs." 10:30 a.m., "The Third Miracle." 12:30 p.m., "The Substitute." 2 p.m., "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." 3:45 p.m., "The Game of Death." 5:30 p.m., "A Civil Action." 7:30 p.m., "The Alien Within." 9 p.m., "Universal Soldier: The Return." 10:30 p.m., "Out of Sight." 12:30 a.m., "The Substitute." 2 a.m., "The Burning Season." 4 a.m., "Places in the Heart."

Sunday, April 1, 6 a.m., "We're Talkin' Serious Money." 7:30 a.m., "Crash." 9 a.m., "Jerry and Tom." 10:45 a.m., "Empire City." 12:15 p.m., "One True Thing." 2:15 p.m., "The Professionals." 4:15 p.m., "Taste of Love." 6 p.m., "Rubdown." 7:30 p.m., "Chameleon." 9 p.m., "A Map of the World." 11 p.m., "Crash." 12:30 a.m., "Into the Night." 4:30 a.m., "The Quest."

'Notting Hill'

Monday, April 2, 6 a.m., "Molokai: The Story of Father Damien." 8:15 a.m., "Hope." 9:45 a.m., "The Serpent and the Rainbow." 11:15 a.m., "Strapped." 1 p.m., "Touching Evil" Firestarter." 2:45 p.m., "Hitman's Run." 4:15 p.m., "The Return of Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer." 7:15 p.m., "Deep Star Six." 9 p.m., "Notting Hill." 11 p.m., "The Serpent and the Rainbow." 12:35 a.m., "Touching Evil: Firestarter." 2:15 a.m., "Men of Respect." 4:15 a.m., "Borderline Normal."

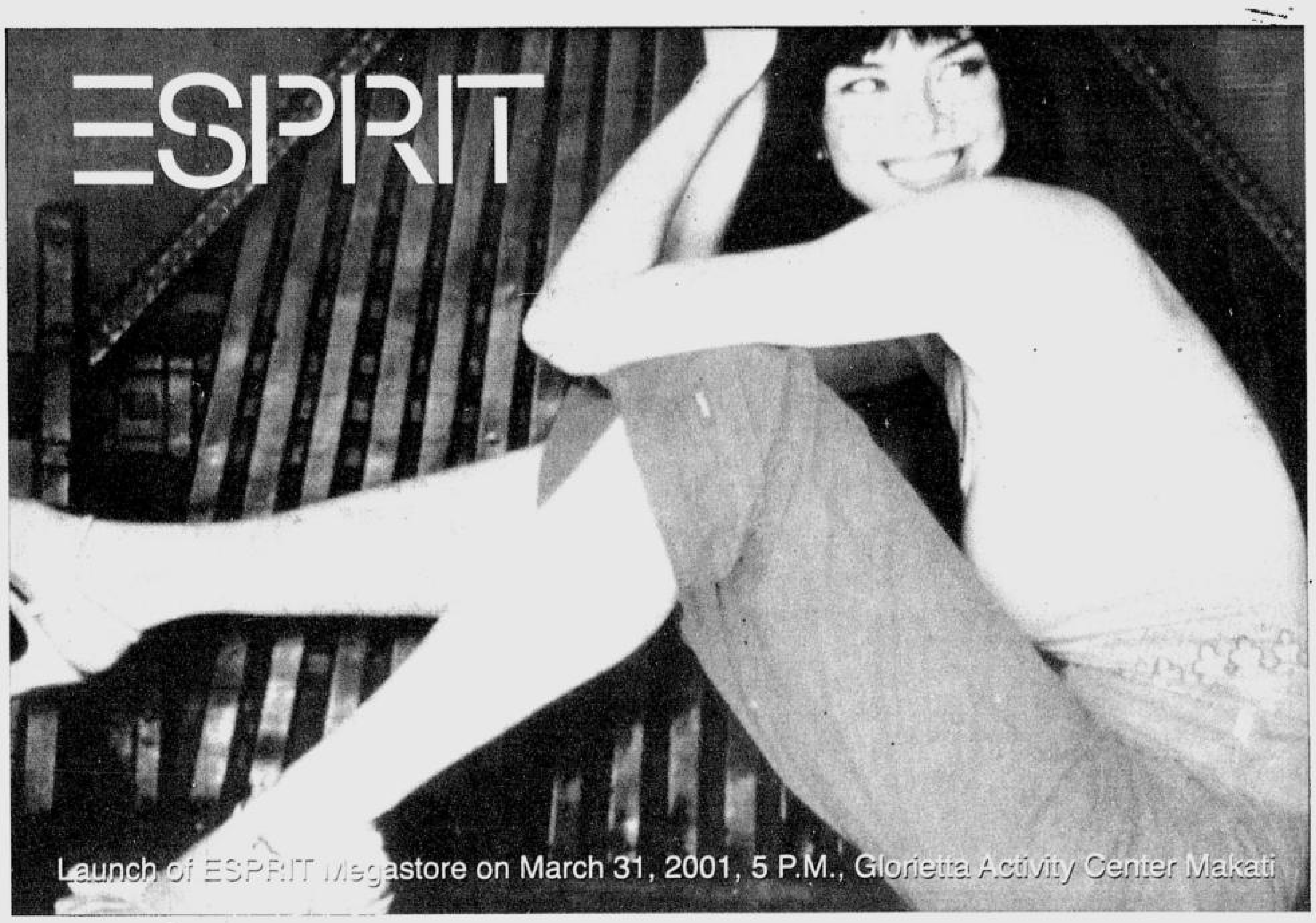
Tuesday, April 3, 6 a.m., "Indiscreet." 7:30 a.m., "The Quick Gun." 9 a.m., "The Burning Season." 11 a.m., "The Defenders: Taking the First." 12:45 p.m., "City Heat." 2:15 p.m., "Barbarians at the Gate." 4 p.m., "Takedown." 5:30 p.m., "Citizen Cohn." 7:15 p.m., "Avenging Angel." 9 p.m., "Tainted Blood." 10:30 p.m., "The Burning Season." 12:30 a.m., "Indiscreet." 2:15 a.m., "Takedown." 4 a.m., "The Prince and the Showgirl."

'One True Thing'

Wednesday, April 4, 6 a.m., "Rubdown." 7:30 a.m., "The Return of Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer." 9 a.m., "Heart of Darkness." 10:45 a.m., "Weird Science." 12:15 p.m., "Universal Soldier: The Return." 1:45 p.m., "A Kiss Before Dying." 3:15 p.m., "Ivanhoe." 5:30 p.m., "Barney's Great Adventure." 6:45 p.m., "One True Thing." 9 p.m., "Christina's House." 10:30 p.m., "Universal Soldier: The Return." 11:50 p.m., "The Lightning Incident." 1:20 a.m., "Weird Science." 3 a.m., "We're Talkin' Serious Money." 4:30 a.m., "One true Thing."

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 a.m., "Midnight Heat." 8 a.m., "Into the Night." 10 a.m., "Chameleon." 11:30 a.m., "The Professionals." 1:30 p.m., "The All New Adventures of Laurel and Hardy—For Love or Mummy." 3 p.m., "Molokai: The Story of Father Damien." 5 p.m., "Tongs." 6:45 p.m., "Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan Lord of the Apes." 9 p.m., "Leaving Normal." 10:45 p.m., "Chameleon." 12:15 a.m., "Praying Mantis." 1:45 a.m., "The All New Adventures of Laurel and Hardy—For Love or Mummy." 3:15 a.m., "Strapped." 5 a.m., "The Quick Gun."

Friday, April 6, 6:30 a.m., "O-negative." 8:15 a.m., "Wounded." 10 a.m., "Running Mates." 11:30 a.m., "Wilder Napalm." 1:15 p.m., "Borderline Normal." 2:45 p.m., "Empire City." 4:15 "The Defenders: Taking the First." 6 p.m., "Double, Double Toil and Trouble." 7:30 p.m., "Taste of Love." 9 p.m., "Nightfall." 10:30 p.m., "Wounded." 12:10 a.m., "Robin Hood: Men in Tights." 1:55 a.m., "The Fear: Halloween Night." 3:15 a.m., "Touching Evil: Firestarter." 5 a.m., "Cinemas of the World: The Agitators of the Realm."



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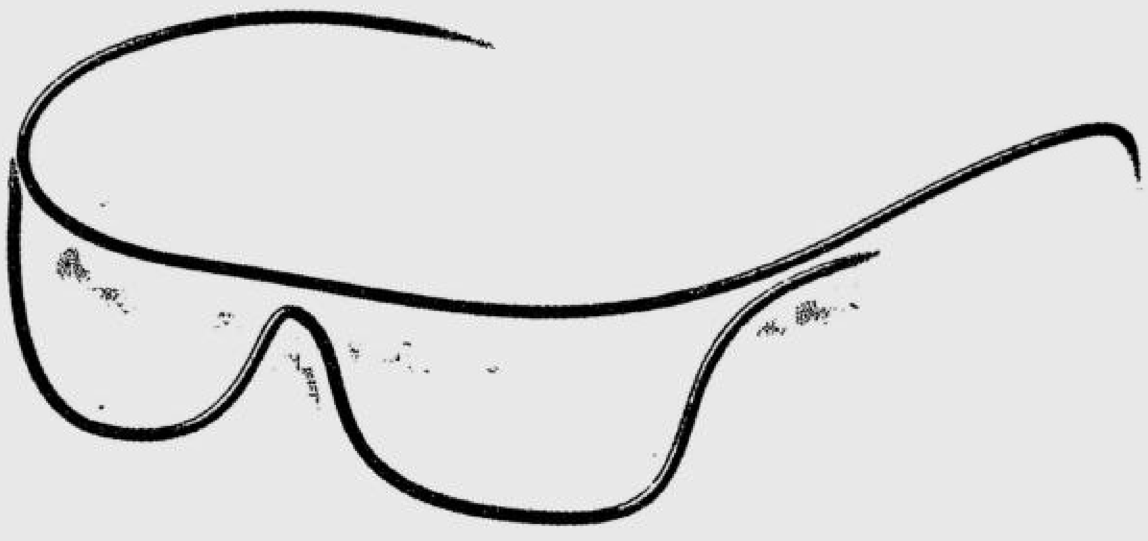

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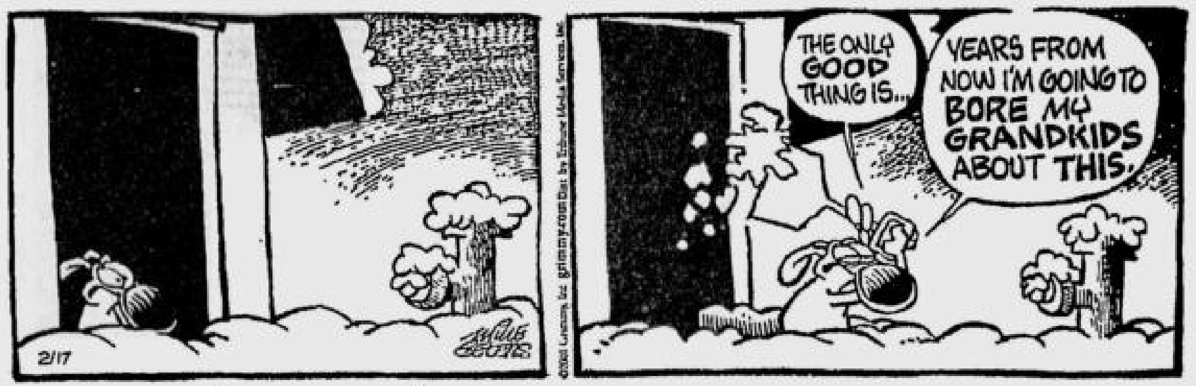
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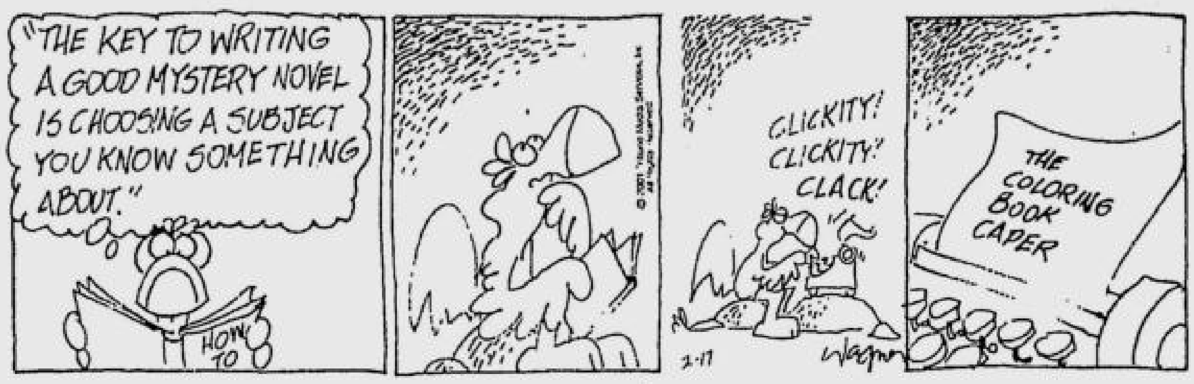
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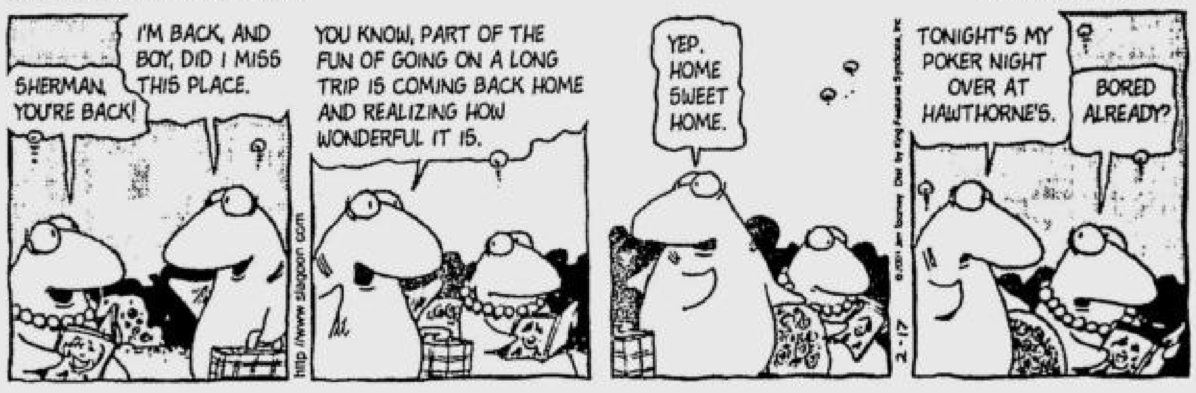
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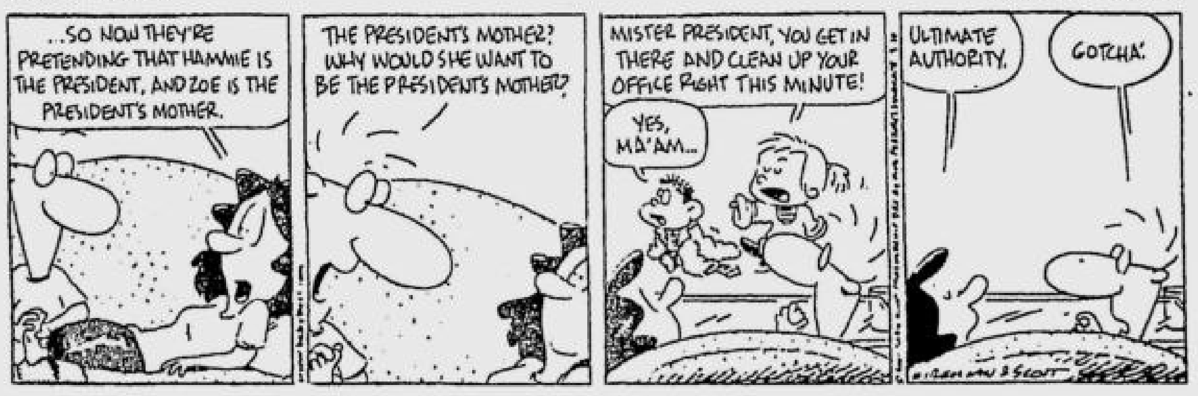
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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Al Gore, Christopher Walken, Shirley Jones, Richard Chamberlain, Rhea Perlman, John Fowles, Cesar Chavez, Giovanni Ribisi, Ewan McGregor

Happy Birthday: Your creative imagination is churning with superb ideas. Express yourself openly and don't be afraid to present what you've been working on. You can achieve if you are quick to take advantage of those who show interest in what you are doing. Be confident, knowledgeable and dramatic. Your numbers: 5, 13, 15, 22, 27, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep busy if you wish to avoid discord on the home front. Don't neglect your domestic duties or you'll be in the doghouse. Before you accept an invitation, ask your mate if it's OK.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Form a closer connection to your colleagues and clients. You can solidify partnerships that will result in prosperity. Don't vacillate: Take advantage of the opportunities as they unfold.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotional deception will set you off. Legal matters pertaining to personal partnerships will be questionable. Do not spend money on luxury items for your home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will get into debates if you are overly opinionated while talking to others. Be prepared to alienate or lose friends if you plan on being stubborn. Keep your thoughts to yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes in your position may come as a surprise. Accept the inevitable and continue with your work. Professionalism will be necessary if you wish to gain respect.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sudden romance will end just as quickly. Someone is not being completely honest with you. Be willing to listen but don't be fooled by his or her tall tales.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have difficulties with peers if you are too pushy in your attempts to get ahead. A humble approach will get you much further. You can go the distance if you play your cards right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your memory is superb. This will be a great day to talk to individuals who can provide you with valuable information. You may want to do a little investigating and traveling about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't get involved in risky financial ventures. You are wise to avoid extravagance as well as exaggeration. Take your time when making decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Personal dilemmas will be based on an unrealistic assessment of your situation. Try to keep things in perspective rather than turning your back on the real issues. You may be partly to blame.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't neglect problems with skin, bones or teeth. A positive attitude will add to your popularity at work. Don't be afraid to say what you think and take action if you believe you're right.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check into small-business opportunities. Your personal partner will be reluctant to get involved. Don't be discouraged by his reaction but listen; he may have some valid warnings.

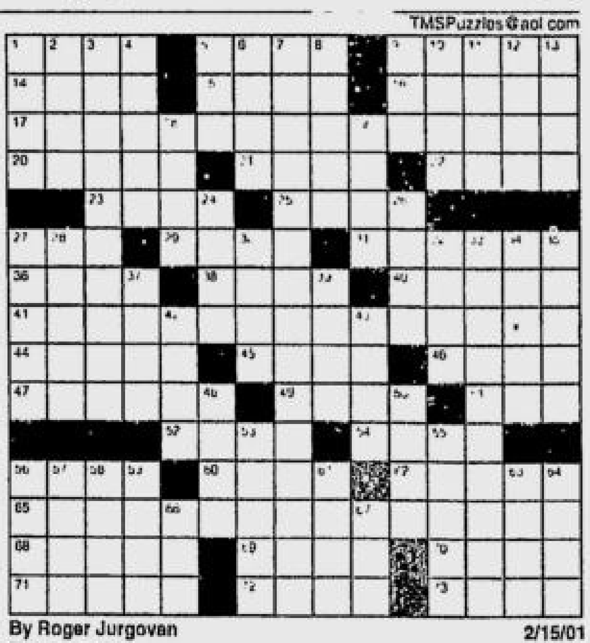
Birthday Baby: You are soft, generous and forgiving. You have a great memory and a strong urge to learn all that you can. You are happy to join in and work with others, but you do have your own way of doing things.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Seldom seen
5 Woodwind instrument
9 Bit of info
14 King of Norway
15 Capacious boats
16 Expiate
17 Flimflammer's come-on
20 News medium
21 Mets stadium
22 Remote button
23 Pack, as cargo
25 Norway's capital
27 __-de-dah
29 __ Alto, CA
31 Jong and others
36 Italian volcano
38 Sch. military grp.
40 Cooking smell
41 Flimflammer's boast
44 First book of the Minor Prophets
45 Roe source
46 "Pursuit of the Graf __"
47 Test papers
49 Poet's Ireland
51 Dr. Leary's drug
52 Cole __
54 Bring under control
56 Lost traction
60 End of a buck?
62 Trails
65 Flimflammer's closer
68 Upright
69 Game played with 32 cards
70 Sommer of "A Shot in the Dark"
71 Garlic-basil sauce
72 Feudal serf
73 Kremlin refusal

DOWN
1 Spree
2 Winglike
3 Snazziness
4 Happening
5 Lummox
6 Bikini tops
7 Dupe's response to the flimflammer
8 Sen. Kefauver
9 Patriotic grp.
10 Elemental unit
11 Bean curd
12 Module
13 Dole (out)
18 Perched on
19 Wan
24 Guarded
26 Spoken
27 River of Hades
28 Porthos' pal
30 Defeat
32 Garden bloom
33 In all
34 French girlfriends
35 Fully full
37 On the waves
39 Burn slightly
42 Kyser and Medford
43 Redact
48 Thin strip
50 California wine county
53 Got up
55 Expert
56 Subway station
57 Highway subdivision
58 Eisenhower and Turner
59 Concavity
61 Heroine of "The Good Earth"
63 Walk on the wild side?
64 Let it stand!
66 Altar vow
67 Summer on the Somme



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

2/15/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	D	L	A	I	■	S	T	A	G	■	Z	E	A	L
R	E	A	R	S	■	O	R	C	A	■	I	A	G	O
C	L	U	B	S	I	N	A	T	L	A	N	T	I	S
H	I	D	O	U	T	■	M	O	L	E	C	U	L	E
■	■	■	R	E	A	P	■	R	O	N	■	P	E	R
S	P	A	■	S	L	O	E	■	P	E	G	■	■	■
A	A	R	P	■	I	O	T	A	■	I	R	I	S	H
S	W	E	E	T	C	L	U	B	S	D	A	N	C	E
S	L	A	S	H	■	S	I	L	L	■	S	C	A	R
■	■	■	O	R	B	■	S	E	E	M	■	A	T	F
S	A	O	■	I	R	E	■	R	E	A	M	■	■	■
A	L	L	A	L	O	N	G	■	P	R	E	S	T	O
M	I	S	S	L	O	N	E	L	Y	C	L	U	B	S
B	E	E	P	■	M	U	N	I	■	I	D	E	A	L
A	N	N	S	■	S	I	T	E	■	A	S	T	R	O

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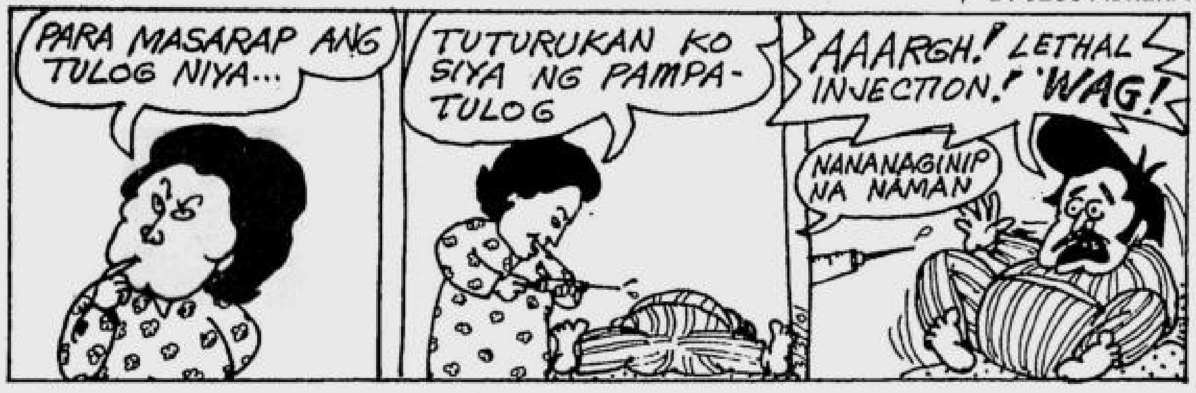
2/14/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

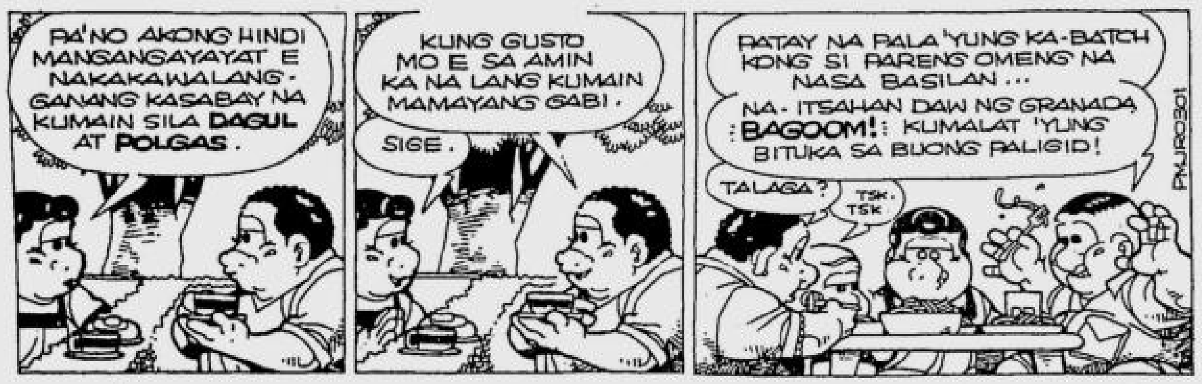
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PARA MASARAP ANG TULOG NIYA...
TUTURUKAN KO SIYA NG PAMPA-TULOG
AAARGH! LETHAL INJECTION! 'WAG!
NANANAGINIP NA NAMAN

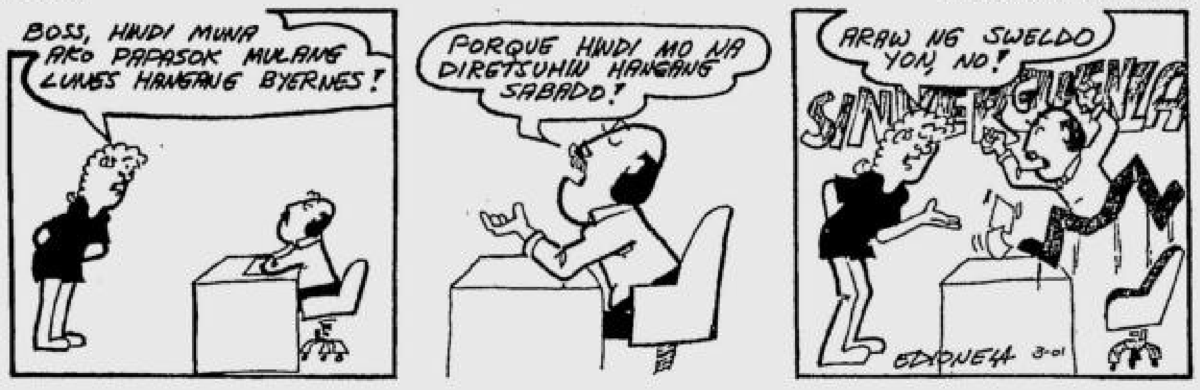
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PA'NO AKONG HINDI MANGANGAYAYAT E NAKAKAWALANG-GANANG KASABAY NA KUMAIN SILA DAGUL AT POLGAS.
KUNG GUSTO MO E SA AMIN KA NA LANG KUMAIN MAMAYANG GABI.
SIGE.
PATAY NA PALA 'YUNG KA-BATCH KONG SI PARENG OMENG NA NASA BASILAN...
NA-ITSAHAN DAW NG GRANADA, BAGOOM! KUMALAT 'YUNG BITUKA SA BUONG PALIGID!
TALAGA?
TSK. TSK
PMJR0301

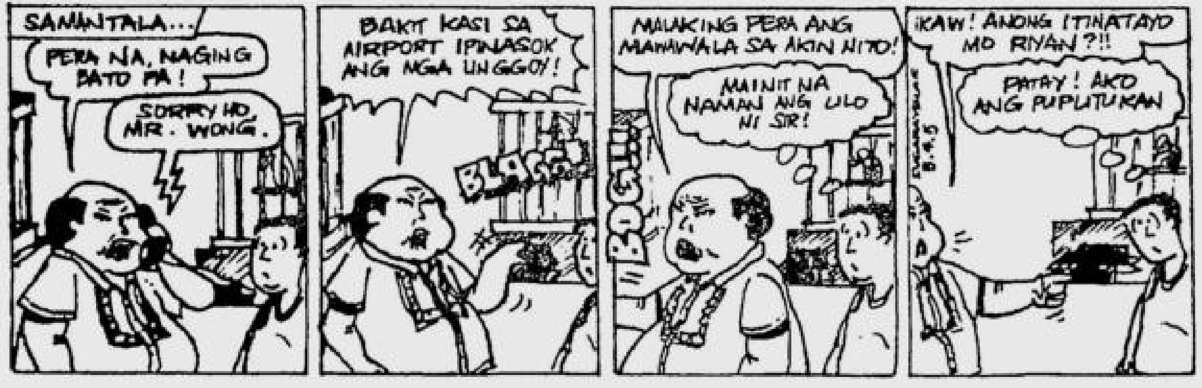
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BOSS, HINDI MUNA AKO PAPASOK MULANG LUNES HANGGANG BYERNES!
PORQUE HINDI MO NA DIRETSUHIN HANGANG SABADO!
ARAW NG SWELDO YON, NO!
EDIONELA 3-01

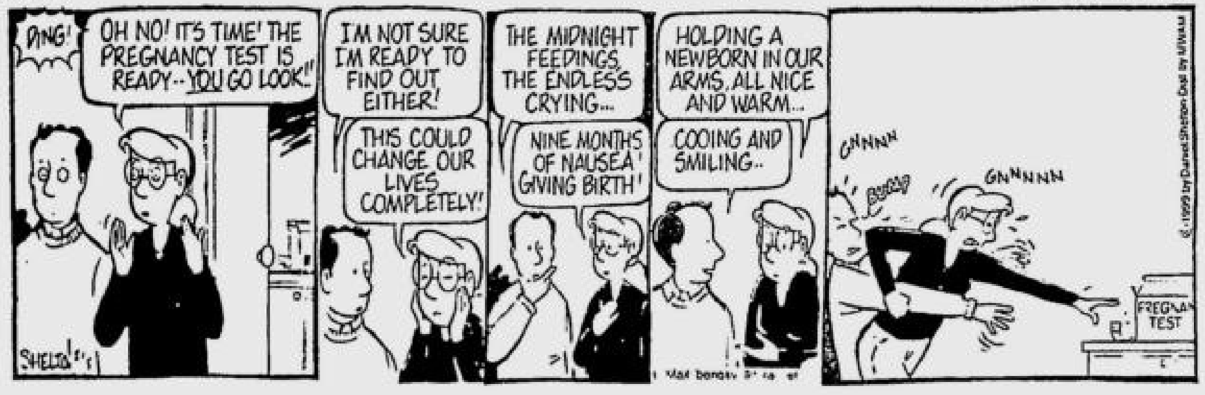
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SAMANTALA...
PERA NA, NAGING BATO PA!
SORRY HO, MR. WONG.
BAKIT KASI SA AIRPORT IPINASOK ANG NGA UNGGOY!
BLAG
MALAKING PERA ANG MAWAWALA SA AKIN NITO!
MAINIT NA NAMAN ANG ULO NI SIR!
¡KAW! ANONG ITINATAYO MO RIYAN?!!
PATAY! AKO ANG PUPUTUKAN

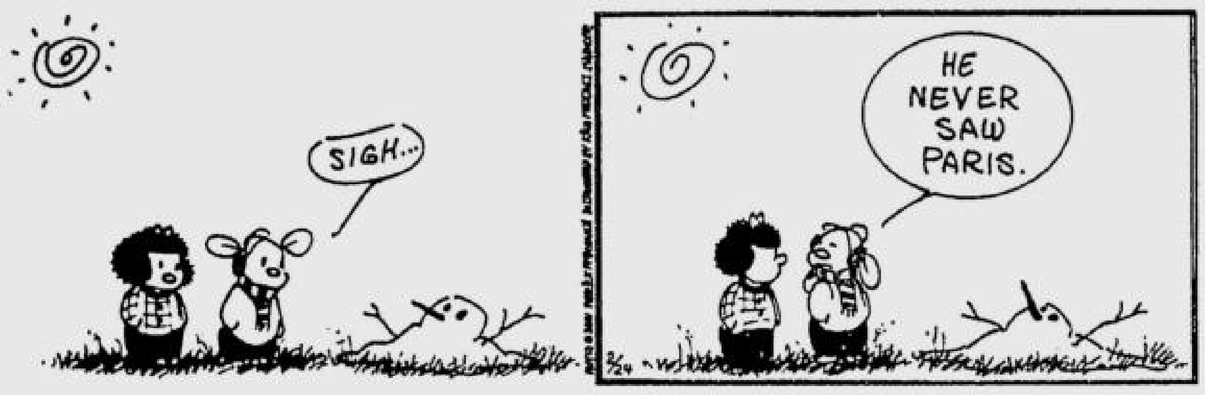
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DING!
OH NO! IT'S TIME! THE PREGNANCY TEST IS READY-- YOU GO LOOK!
I'M NOT SURE I'M READY TO FIND OUT EITHER!
THIS COULD CHANGE OUR LIVES COMPLETELY!
THE MIDNIGHT FEEDINGS, THE ENDLESS CRYING...
NINE MONTHS OF NAUSEA, GIVING BIRTH!
HOLDING A NEWBORN IN OUR ARMS, ALL NICE AND WARM...
COOING AND SMILING..
GNNNN
GNNNNN
PREGNANCY TEST

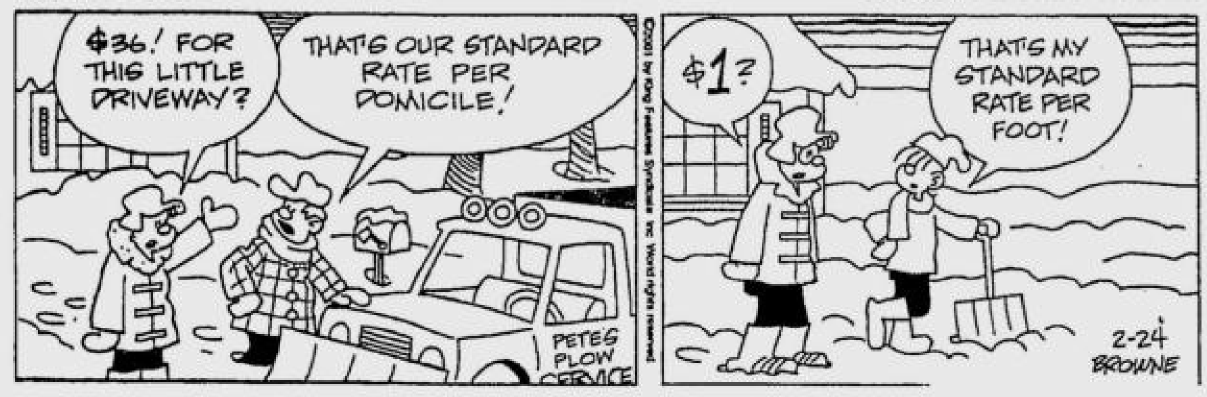
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SIGH...
HE NEVER SAW PARIS.
2/24

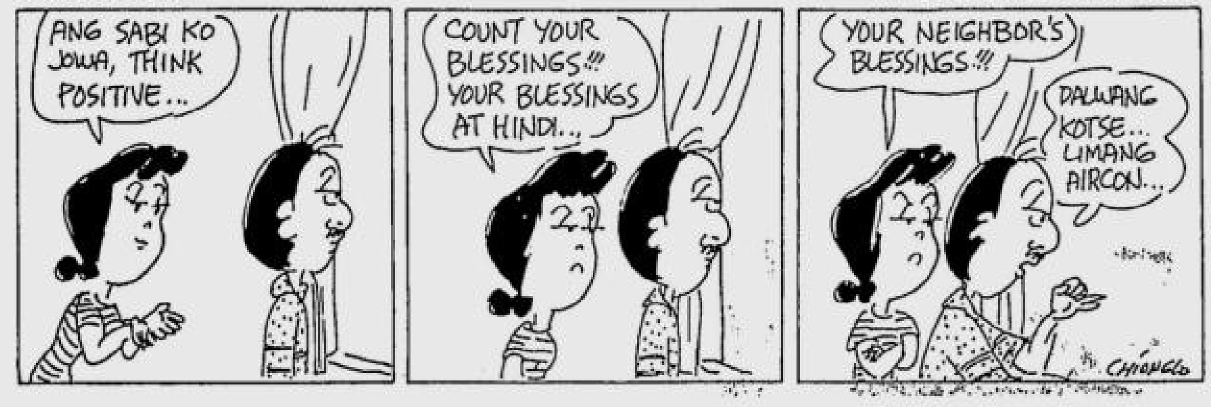
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


$36! FOR THIS LITTLE DRIVEWAY?
THAT'S OUR STANDARD RATE PER DOMICILE!
PETE'S PLOW SERVICE
$1?
THAT'S MY STANDARD RATE PER FOOT!
2-24
BROWNE

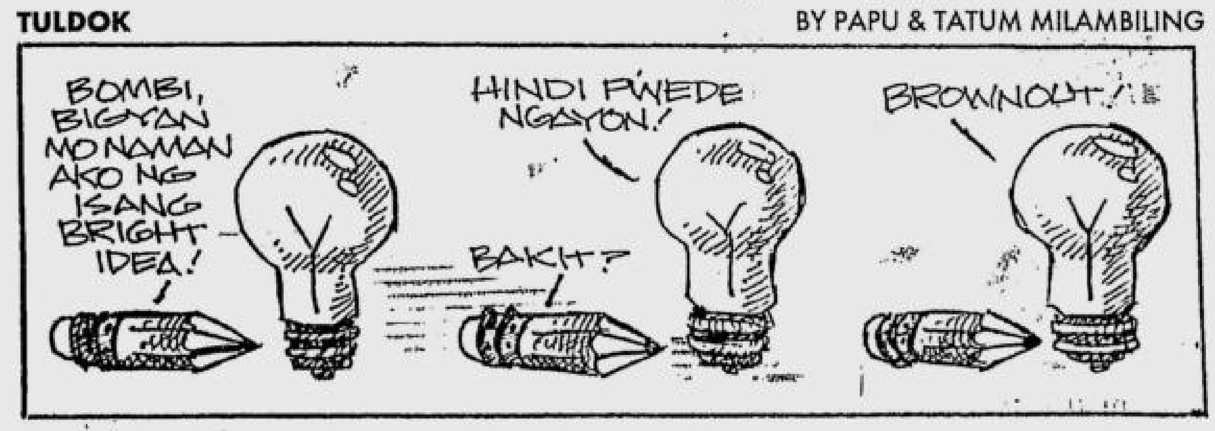
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SABI KO JOWA, THINK POSITIVE...
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!!! YOUR BLESSINGS AT HINDI...
YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BLESSINGS!!!
DALWANG KOTSE... LIMANG AIRCON...
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BOMBI, BIGYAN MO NAMAN AKO NG ISANG BRIGHT IDEA!
HINDI PWEDE NGAYON!
BAKIT?
BROWNOUT!

TWO FOR THE SHOW

The old 'TV Patrol' was a better show

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

"TV Patrol" without Noli de Castro isn't the same. Seeing him deliver the news during weekdays (6:00 to 6:30 p.m.) had become a regular habit. His reportage was fair, fearless and credible. The new team of broadcasters Korina Sanchez, Henry Omaga-Diaz and Aljo Bendijo, work hard to fill Noli's shoes but they sometimes can't seem to measure up.

Korina has a tendency to sensationalize the news and inject her opinions. Televiewers would appreciate her more if she just delivered the news as it is because that would give us an opportunity to think and form our own opinions.

During an interview, however, Korina admits that comparisons with Noli de Castro are inevitable. Maintaining the number one slot for "TV Patrol" is a challenge. "Noli's shoes are quite large and I have small feet. I'm deliberately not pressuring myself," she says.

Henry Omaga-Diaz fares well as co-anchor. And newcomer Aljo Bendijo attracts female viewers even if he covers crime, police stories and investigative reports. To minimize his southern accent, he read tabloids and *Tagalog komiks.*

GMA-7 launches Mutya ng Pilipinas

GMA-7 joins hands with Miss Asia Pacific Quest, Inc to bring the Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant to televiewers in a different way. When the contestants are finally chosen, "D! Day" will present the candidates in a docu-drama. Viewers can witness the hectic activities of candidates as they prepare for pageant night, and their tension and mistakes during rehearsals will be shown.

The countrywide application period will end on April 20. Contestants who embody the modern Filipina will be chosen through a series of regional screenings and pageants in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The coronation night on June 9 will be held at the NBC Tent at the Fort.

Asciano Mixx and Channels hit the bar scene

Last week, Channels performed on the Crossover Live bar tour at Café Overdrive. They opened with covers like "Emotion," "Runaway" and "Fill Me In" but failed to really grab the attention of the audience.

But after they performed their original composition, "I'm So Sorry," Channels got into the groove of things. "Separate Lives," "Best Things in Life," "Dancing Queen" and "Cruising" kept the tempo up until their second set. And "Let's Get Loud," "Horny," "Sex Bomb," and the new wave-punk covers "Streetbeat," "Rico Mambo," "Whip It," "Fantasy," and "Micky" kept the crowd on the dance floor.

On the other hand, Asciano Mixx energized their audience with covers from Santana, Kenny Rankin and Eric Clapton. But they have more appeal when they dish out Latin, pop, R&B and blues-rock music. Catch them every Sunday at Fat Tuesday at the Alabang Town Center.

Bojo spreads his wings

BOJO Molina celebrated his 28th birthday recently and had one word to describe how he feels—"blessed." "I am very happy that, despite some rough sailing, I've managed to keep my chin up and face up to the challenges in show business. Maybe I can call myself a survivor," he says.

At 28, he has learned to look into other sources of happiness and fulfilment aside from his job as a celebrity, and he has found it in business. Molina has invested his savings in two businesses he has put up with his non-show biz friends: O2 in Malate and Friends at St. Francis Square in Ortigas. Both bars are doing better than expected.

In his the private life, Molina is enjoying what he calls his "unattached" state. After breaking up with Rica Peralejo, Molina has broadened his views on relationships and life in general.

"Don't keep on looking for love. Be on the lookout for things that will make you a beter person and if you're truly ready, love will find you," he intones.

Ana Capri invades TV

While she joins the protest against censorship, sexy actress Ana Capri has invaded local television.

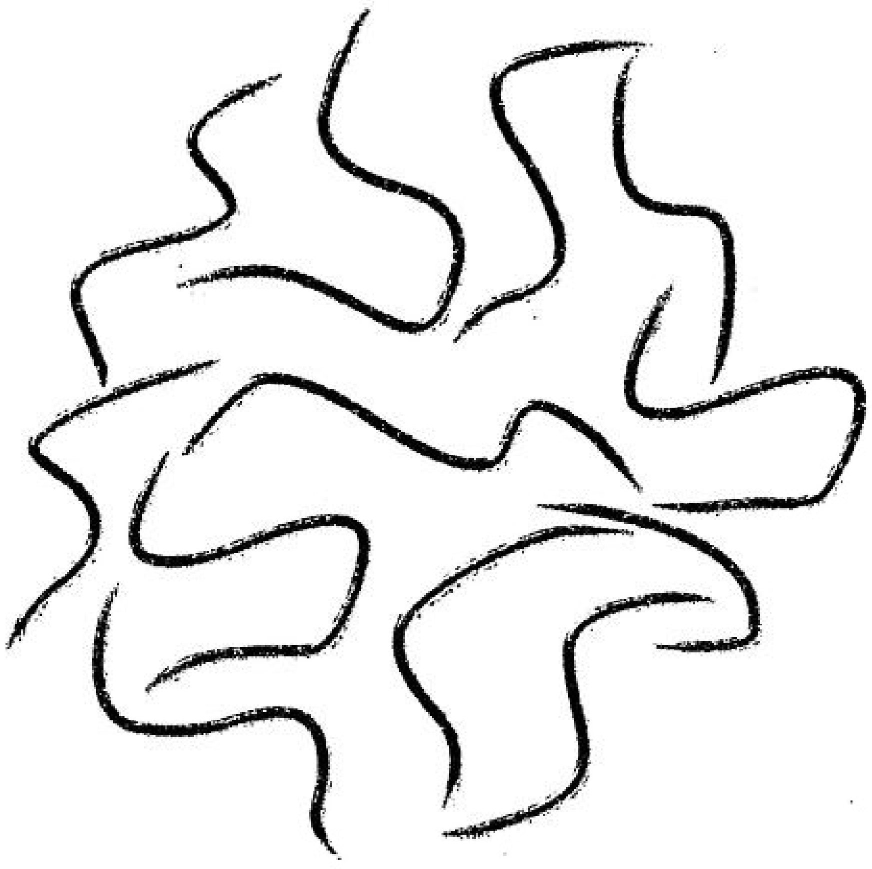
Capri is included in the cast of the Channel 7's soap opera, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and she doesn't care if she's only assigned a supporting role. "I believe that that you can be noticed even in a small role, as long as you're good," she says.

In the new soap, Capri can't go very sexy because her directors, Soxy Topacio and Louie Ignacio, are aware that television has its limits due to its being able to reach into people's homes. "*Sa buhay, dapat alam mo na lahat may* limitations *at lahat may kasamang* responsibility," she says.

MOLINA. Survivor.

CAPRI. New TV show.

What happens when you give your child another glass at bedtime
NIDO



Beware of **HIV!**

If your **Hair Is Vanishing,** huwag mabahala! Isang tawag lang ang solusyon!

Call the Regroe Company

817-33-03

Samuel L. Jackson plays insane, ranting vagrant

By Anthony Breznican

JACKSON. Lost in a world of delusion and confusion.

LOS ANGELES—They say a broken clock is correct at least two times a day, which is more than can be said of Romulus Ledbetter, the insane, ranting vagrant in the detective mystery "The Caveman's Valentine."

Delusion

Samuel L. Jackson plays Romulus, whose paranoid schizophrenia envelopes him in a world of delusion, confusion and misconception.

Torturing him is the idea that a megalomaniac bent on world domination spies on him from atop a skyscraper and sends neon death-rays to permeate his skull.

He also thinks his busted television broadcasts crimes in progress, and that a flock of men with moth wings lives inside his head.

Locals mockingly refer to Romulus as "Caveman" because he sleeps under a rocky enclave in a Manhattan park. He also looks the part with his hat of matted fur, waist-length dreadlocks and animal-intense eyes.

In any other detective story, Romulus would be a colorful side character, but "The Caveman's Valentine" boldly chooses him as its hero.

All detective mysteries must have certain ingredients to satisfy fans of the genre, such as a questionable death, a shady hero, a femme fatale, an aloof rich man, an obstinate police investigator and some thugs who give the hero the occasional once-over.

Elements

Author George Dawes Green, who adapted "The Caveman's Valentine" from his Edgar Award-winning novel, makes great use of these elements pioneered by Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. Their stories made Humphrey Bogart a star in the 1940s with movies like "The Big Sleep" and "The Maltese Falcon."

But imagine Bogart's street-wise investigator if he couldn't trust his own senses. That's the handicap Romulus works under, an interesting twist that elevates this thriller to the ranks of its greatest predecessors.

Fans of Jackson's lyrical, high-decibal diatribes in "Pulp Fiction" and "Shaft" will delight in his performance as the Caveman, which he plays from the very first scene at full-volume.

Romulus himself is something of a mystery. He was a classically trained pianist and composer at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in New York who retained his artistry despite his mental illness.

We learn that fellow classmates considered him a genius in his prime, but Romulus abandoned his career and family (not to mention his rational mind) when the pressure to prove his talents became too great.

This adds credibility to the idea that a deranged homeless man would become an amateur sleuth after finding a fellow transient frozen to death on a snowy morning after Valentine's Day. He believes the man was murdered.

Estranged daughter

Romulus could never prove his own worth, but he remains driven to at least prove something—especially to his estranged daughter (Aunjanue Ellis), who is now a New York police officer.

He hears a rumor that the frozen man was a former model killed because he tried to blackmail a Robert Mapplethorpe-like photographer named David Leppenraub (the icy character actor Colm Feore).

The trouble is that Romulus' murder scenario fits too well with his other ridiculous conspiracy theories, so no one believes him.

But like that broken clock, this time Romulus may be right.

The skill in Kasi Lemmons' direction is how she makes the audience never quite sure whether to trust the Caveman's detecting skills.

Consider the scene in which Romulus first confronts the suspicious Leppenraub: Fear causes the giant moths to flutter through his brain, which we see as writhing bodies attached to brilliant, glistening wings. Romulus rants in his mind to relieve their rage, and both scenes are intercut with what he's really doing — perfectly pounding a furious melody on a piano at a Leppenraub party.

Madness

The real world and his psychotic imagination connect and break away several times before his madness finally betrays him to the crowd.

Philip Marlowe and Sam Spade fought their fair share of toughs, but Romulus has far greater battles raging inside.

Even at the very end, you can feel the Caveman struggling to keep it together just a few moments longer. *AP*

Young viewers cite their favorite TV shows

By Leia Torre

WHAT if you had to choose only one TV show to watch, among the thousands now being shown—which would your favorite and most greatly valued TV program be?

Would you give in to your younger sister, whom you love very much, and decide that watching "Dexter's Lab" 24 hours a day, seven days a week, four weeks a month (etc). wouldn't be *that* bad? Or would you temporarily forget you had a little sister and choose "Charmed"? Little sister is going to grow up anyday soon, anyway!

Responses

Here are some of the responses I received when I asked some college students this question. It's up to you to decide if they chose the show for themselves or for their dear younger sister!

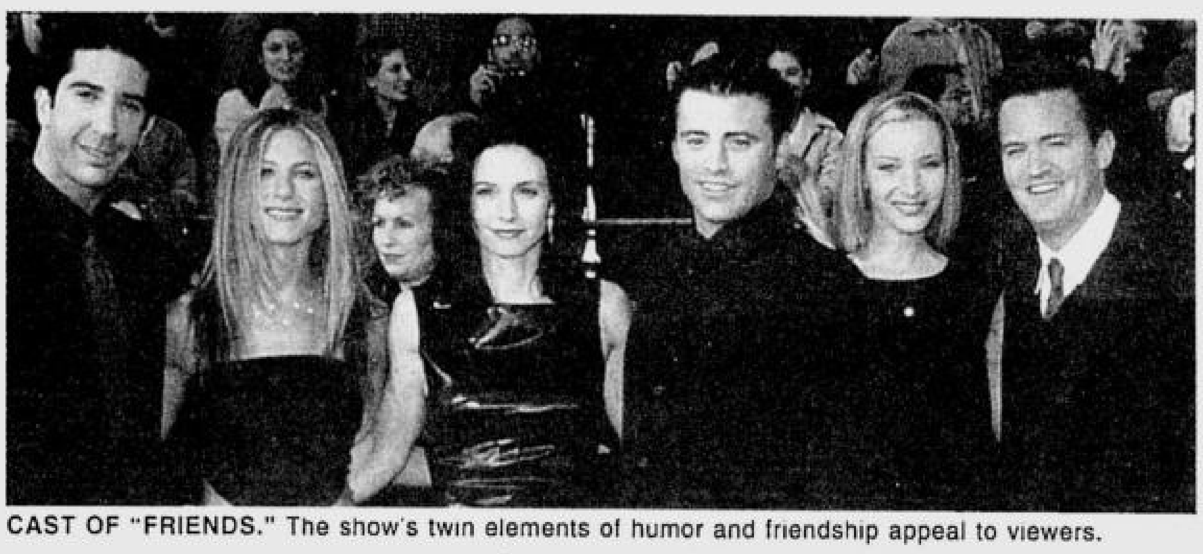
"I would have to choose 'Charmed.' I enjoy magic! I enjoy it so much that if there were a Harry Potter TV series, I would be its number one fan. At present, 'Charmed' comes the closest to being Harry Potter-ish on TV.

"I find magic so fascinating because it has the capability of transporting me to another world and making me forget all the problems that I encounter in my everyday life —at least temporarily. And wouldn't you enjoy imagining yourself possessing all these magical capabilities which can help you thwart all your enemies and pass all your subjects at the same time? Or maybe, cause your least favorite teacher to disappear for a while, at least until you've finished answering that exam for the second time?"— *Adrienne Reyes, 17*

Universal issues

"'Ally MacBeal' would be *my* choice. I think the show is superb! I also find it easier to relate to it, as the situations it depicts are more realistic when compared with those of other shows about lawyers. And, in spite of its foreign setting, it is still easy to relate to because it tackles universal issues.

"The dialogue exchanged by the characters is witty and very entertaining. I also like the way they make scenes that are supposedly 'senseless' teach viewers a lesson or two about life. The magnification of certain body parts of the characters, like Ally's heart or eyes, is also hilarious." — *Marion Domingo, 20*



CAST OF "FRIENDS." The show's twin elements of humor and friendship appeal to viewers.

'The Practice' is the TV show I would choose to be left with, should all TV shows disappear except one. I find the drama unfolding inside the make-believe courtroom of this show very entertaining. I admire the onscreen projection of Lara Flynn Boyle, who plays the district attorney in the series, and who is also the frequent courtroom adversary of the main character's law firm.

"I like it that they don't win their cases each and every time they go to court, making the stories more realistic. It shows the sad fact that justice is not always fulfilled, though some people might try to convince you otherwise." — *Melvin Pascua, 18*

Magic

"'Charmed' would be the show I would choose. This is because it is not just about magic. It is also about what you can do if you have powers which are out of the ordinary. In the Halliwells' case, they choose to use their powers to do good.

"Furthermore, it is a show about sisters, and family, and love, which are the things that are closest to my heart. An added bonus is that the script is very witty and the Halliwells are sexy." *Bootsie Lopez, 20*

"I would pick 'ER.' I have always wanted to be a doctor, although many people have warned me that it is a hard path and that a lot of work, study, and patience are needed to become a physician. The show inspires me to reach my goal because it portrays what my life could become, should I finish my studies and become a certified doctor. It shows me some of the rewards that I could have from being a doctor.

"It also features different facets of life, not only the hospital or medical side of it. It is very realistic and challenging, and it serves to remind me of my dream to be assigned to the emergency room once I obtain my medical degree." — *Reeda Ikbala, 21*

"My favorite show, is (of course) . . . 'Ally MacBeal'! I think it's a funny, spontaneous, unconventional TV show. The characters are those that people can easily relate to. Plus, they have different personalities whom viewers of all ages, genders and temperaments could empathize with. In other words, there's a character for everyone.

Glimpse of adult life

"I find it nice that the show offers young people a glimpse of adult life without making being an adult seem like something which entails all work and no play.

"It depicts adulthood as being not boring at all, as a stage in life where you can still look forward to a lot of things and where life is just beginning.

"The show also features very realistic situations, things that could actually happen to you in your own life, whether they be embarrassing or sentimental, or both. It depicts life in every aspect. The dialogue is very meaningful, and never corny."
- *Pretchyl Victor, 21*

"'Friends' is the TV show I would choose if there were only one of them left to be on the small screen. I find that it is a show which deals with everything with humor, which I think is one of the most important things in life. It also tackles the subject of friendship, which is one of the most timeless relationships you can have with another person.

"I also like the characters in the show, especially Joey (played by Matt LeBlanc), who makes being an idiot look like fun, and Phoebe (played by Lisa Kudrow), who shows that being beautiful does not necessarily mean that you can't also look stupid once in a while." — *Charmaine Despues, 20*

What about you, dear reader—what's *your* favorite TV show?

Junior
INQUIRER
The news made just for kids
Every Saturday
with the Inquirer
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
News that makes a difference

'Secret of the Andes' at Glorietta 4 ArtFilm

IN the world's highest mountains of the Andes lies an earth-shaking secret that is about to be unraveled. From acclaimed Argentinean director Alejandro Azzano comes the epic adventure "Secret of the Andes," the rousing tale of an archaeologist's quest for a missing relic that holds wondrous powers.

Starring David Keith ("The Indian in the Cupboard"), Nancy Allen ("Robocop") and child wonder Camilla Belle ("The Lost World: Jurassic Park"), "Secret of the Andes" will shown at Glorietta 4 ArtFilm starting April 4.

Expedition

In the film, Brooks Willings (Keith), an American archaeologist, is leading an expedition in search of a mysterious, pre-Columbian relic near Jucataimbo, a tiny village in the Andes. Brenda (Allen), his wife, has come from New York to meet with him to discuss sending their daughter, Diana (Belle), away to boarding school.

The timing could not be worse: the expedition is a failure, the locals blame Willings for their misfortune, the priest (in whose house he lives) wants him out, the university bankrolling the projects cuts his funding, and Brenda wants to leave him.

Woes

To add to his woes, the entire village is caught up in the spiraling frenzy of Carnival, which this year threatens to rage out of control.

From the shadows, two characters, the good and wise Hombre Grande and his archenemy Lazaro, the evil sorcerer, pull the strings of the game and fight for the mischievous Diana's cooperation.

Adventures and humor abound until Diana finally realizes, with the help of Hombre Grande, that the artifact her father is searching for has magical powers—and only if she can find it will everyone be saved, her parents will not divorce, she will not be sent to boarding school and life in the village will return to normal.

GMA airs special on Boyet-Sandy wedding

By Edmund L. Sicam

TUESDAY, March 27 at 4:30 p.m., show biz couple Christopher de Leon and Sandy Andolong solemnized their 21-year-old relationship as man and wife in a religious ceremony held at a church overlooking Taal Lake in Nasugbu, Batangas. Their love story and the wedding itself will be featured in a two-hour television special, "Magpakailanman," airing tonight at 9 on GMA.

Complications

March 27 holds a special meaning for the couple because that is the day Sandy said yes to Boyet. There were complications, though, as far as getting hitched was concerned because he was still married to Superstar Nora Aunor. So the two decided to live-in while he worked on the annulment of his marriage. That took time and it was only five years ago when they were finally able to go through a civil wedding.

They had planned on a church wedding last year but Sandy was occupied with family matters. Finally, the two decided to exchange marriage vows before an officiating priest this year.

Many couples who have lived in for more than two decades would not have bothered to formalize their wedding in church. However, the two are prominent leaders of the Oasis of Love and it wouldn't have looked good to the members of the religious group if the two did not practice what they preached. Besides, they themselves believed that a church wedding was important.

The success of Boyet and Sandy's relationship is a welcome development in show business, where the success rate for marriages is rather low. Boyet himself is the best example, since his marriage to the Superstar broke up after only a few years. Many still remember their wedding ceremony on a beach that made their fans delirious with joy. Unfortunately, their relationship did not have a happy ending.

Boyet admits he was immature when he entered into that relationship, and there were so many other problems that stood in the way. His failed marriage seems to have motivated him to try to forge a stronger relationship with Sandy.

This is not to say that the two did not have problems at the start. Boyet had a lot of demons to exorcise in the early years. That included a serious drug dependency problem and at one point Sandy couldn't take it anymore and actually left Boyet. He begged her to come back. After much prodding she did, until Boyet was able to lick his problem. The result is a 21-year-old relationship that has produced five kids, three boys and two girls.

Flourishing career

The actor continues to have a flourishing career as the leading dramatic actor in a youth-dominated industry. Sandy is not as busy, but she appears in soap operas and is a regular on the ABS-CBN comedy "Arriba, Arriba."

Boyet first noticed Sandy on the cover of Expressweek Magazine. He immediately got attracted to her and vowed to himself he would get to know her. They met at the movie premiere of "Dodong Diamond," where director Ishmael Bernal introduced Sandy to the actor. He got a bit disillusioned because he found her "*suplada*."

They met again on another occasion but he was with another date. He was so smitten by Sandy that he asked his date to go home so he could be with her!

Sandy had first heard of Boyet when she was 14 years. She was with her mom Florita, who was then viewing movies a a member of Famas. She was so impressed by the young actor that she asked her mom to make Boyet win. Boyet did win that year for his performance in "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang," thanks to Sandy's prodding. It helped of course that the other Famas members agreed with her mom and Boyet did deliver a noteworthy performance.

Later, the two appeared in a special short movie where they played the young Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos. It was a movie that was shown only in the Ilocos region. Boyet remembers that he still had a girlfriend then and he had asked her to come to Ilocos during the shooting.

It wasn't long, however, before love bloomed between Boyet and Sandy and they finally made their relationship official on March 27, 1980.

Their marriage last March 27 was relatively simple compared to other show biz marriages. They invited only 150 guests.

Why an afternoon wedding? "I'm not a morning person," says Boyet.

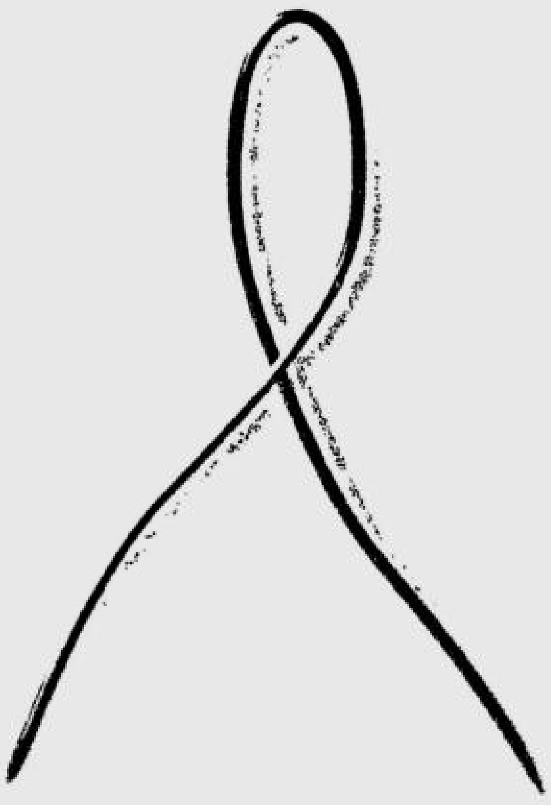
Officiating priests

The officiating priests were Fr. Sonny Ramirez, Oasis of Love's spiritual adviser, and Fr. Jun Lingad. There were only four principal sponsors, Eduardo Cojuangco, Marichu Vera Perez-Maceda, Fernando Poe, Jr. and Felice Avila.

Boyet's best man was Ian de Leon, his son by Nora Aunor. Sandy had no maid of honor or bridesmaid. There was no wedding coordinator, so Sandy took care of most of the wedding arrangements.

SANDY AND BOYET: Newlyweds after 21 years.

HERE comes the bride, dressed in a white gown designed by Lyn Armovit.



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The painful fact is, if you're age 25 up, male, exposed to stress, harsh chemicals and unbalanced diet you are bound to lose hair. Anyone of these can trigger falling hair, which if not immediately arrested, can lead to irreversible stage of baldness. In fact due to the prevalence of baldness, many so-called remedies have come out in the market claiming wonders and magic to bring back your hair. Unfortunately most of them just don't work. They can also cause harmful side effects.

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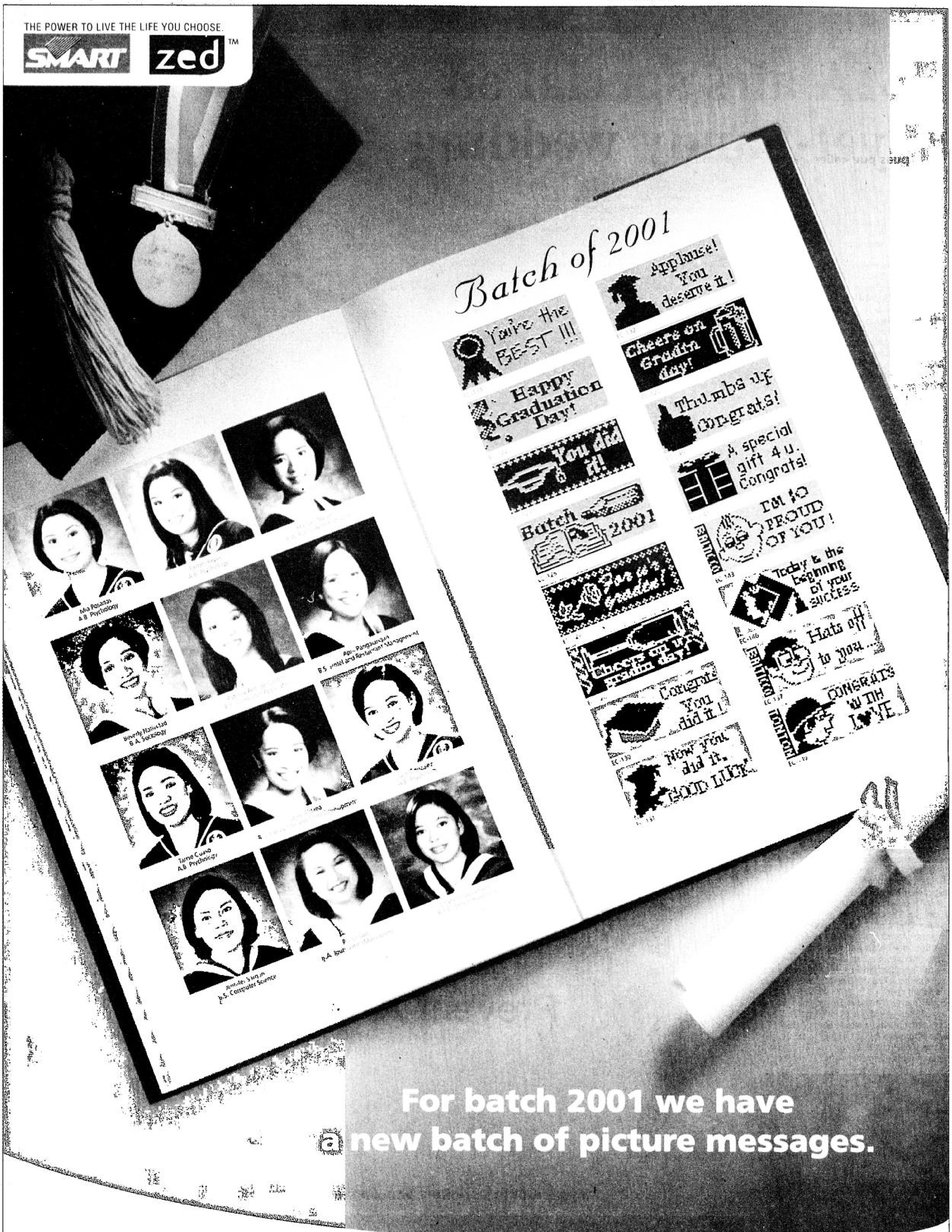
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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 25

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Meet Larry Potter Page 4
- Story: Simrad and the Bully Gang Page 6
- Workshops & Camps Page 9
- Shirley's Pets Page 11

An A.K.A. Cool Special

One Doctor's View

Blind physician sees pain in a different way

BY HELEN O'NEILL

STOOPED in her wheelchair, the patient grumbles about the pain, the cold, her age, her world.

"Some nights I'm screaming in agony," she says. "You gotta help me, doc."

Dr. Stanley Wainapel sizes up the problem immediately. Arthritis has eaten away one 71-year-old knee and is gnawing at the other. The prospect of surgery terrifies her.

Wainapel checks the movement in the patient's arms and legs, prods the left knee until it hurts. "You're made of pretty sturdy stuff," he tells Myra Edelstein, walking back to his desk. "You should come through the surgery fine."

His voice is reassuring, but he's looking in the wrong direction.

"Hey, doc!" Edelstein yells. "I'm over here, doc."

Wainapel straightens his gaze with a slightly embarrassed smile. As Edelstein is leaving she notices a thin white cane, propped beside a bookcase in the corner.

"He's blind!" she exclaims. "My doctor is blind."

More than eyes

With his thick silver hair and silver-rimmed glasses, his staff jokes that Wainapel looks like Andy Warhol, the eccentric American pop artist. He cuts a striking figure as he strides through the hospital, white coat flapping, white cane tapping out a path in front: past cabinets and counters and bewildered onlookers who quickly step out of his way.

Sometimes he bumps into patients. Sometimes he bumps into walls.

And some days Wainapel, the 54-year-old clinical director of rehabilitation at Montefiore Medical Center, has to reassure himself as much as his patients that he was right to choose medicine as his career.

"You need a lot more than eyes," he says, "to be a good physician."

Piano-playing Doc

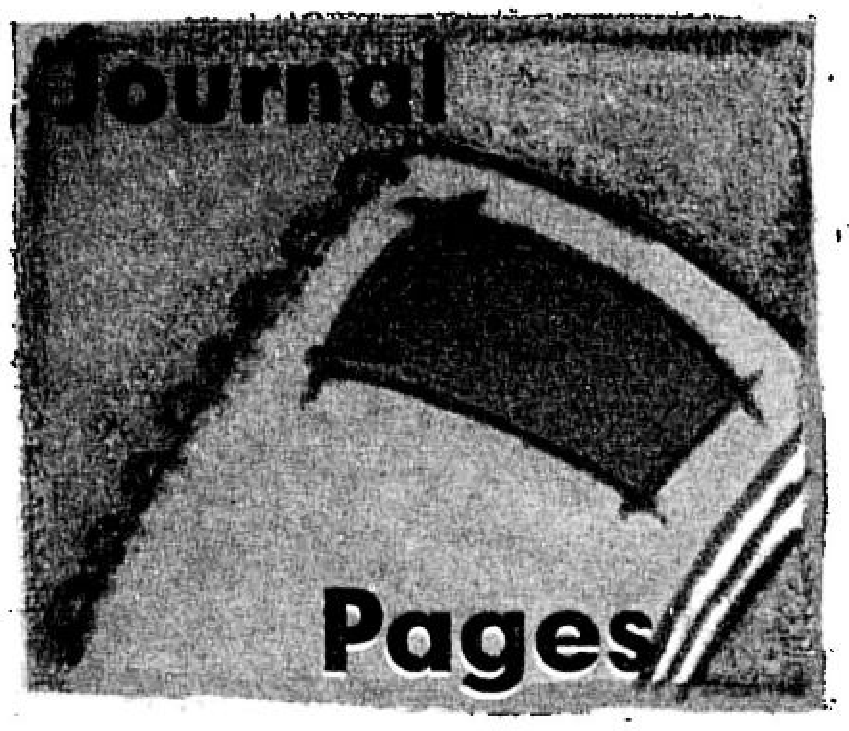
Skillfully negotiating his way through the chaos, is the doctor many have come to see, the blind piano-playing doctor who introduces patients to Mozart and Chopin even as he prods joints and listens to hearts and diagnoses diseases.

Some patients swear the blind doctor sees their pain better than anyone.

"He doesn't judge you from the outside, because he can't see the outside," says Maria Asuncion Diaz, a 42-year-old nurse who is being treated for complications related to Lyme disease. "Because of his blindness, I think he really hears what you have to say."

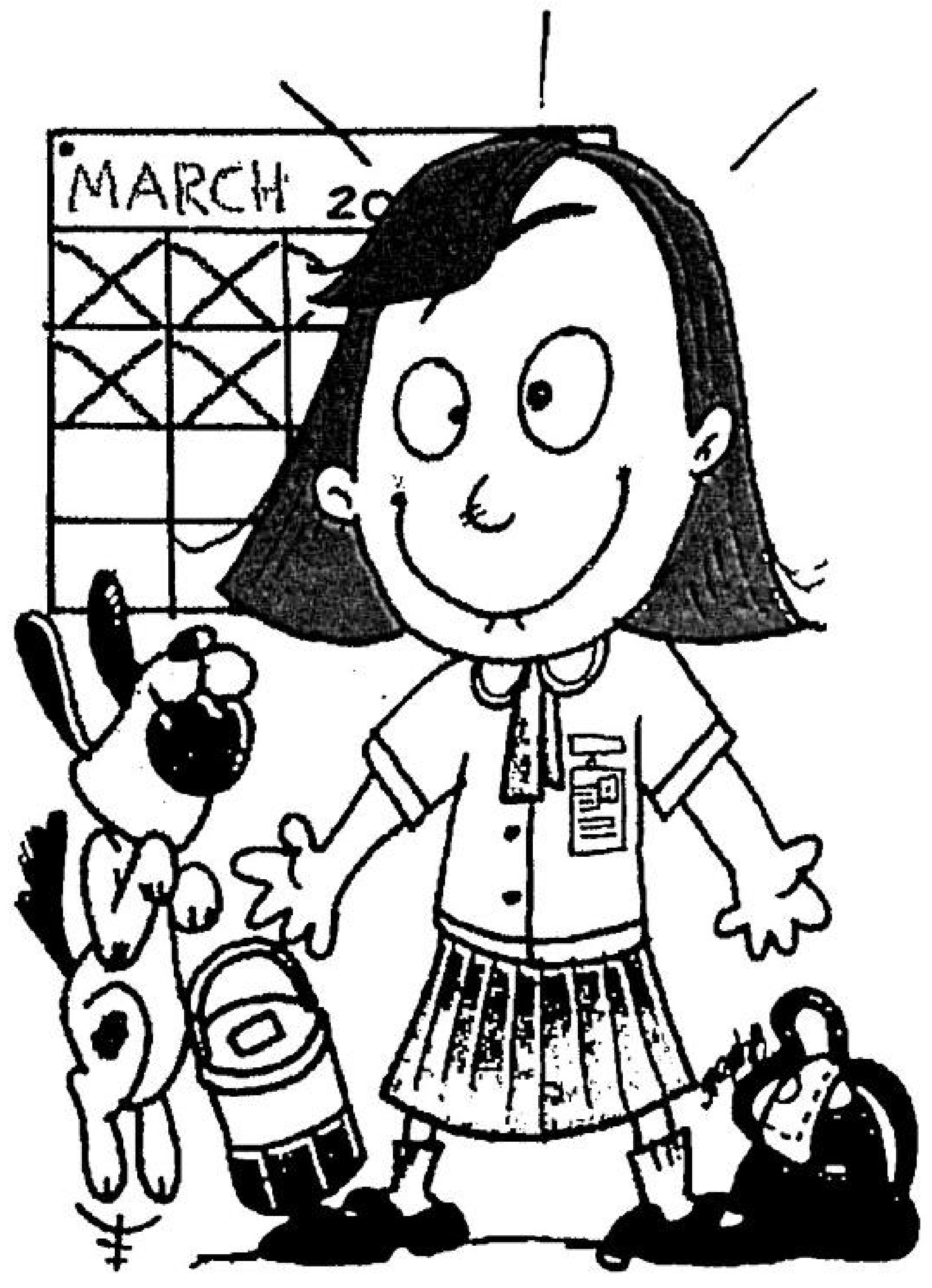
THE TALENTED DR. WAINAPEL. Dr. Stanley F. Wainapel (below right) walks through a corridor at the Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx borough of New York. Because he is blind, Wainapel, the hospital's director of rehabilitation, needs to use a cane to make his way around the complex. He also likes playing the piano at the hospital's recreation room and often introduces patients (right) to Mozart and Chopin while diagnosing their illnesses. AP

One/p.3



A week without school

BY MA. RIZZA B. ALBERTO
CED LABORATORY SCHOOL
NEW ERA UNIVERSITY



NO SCHOOL at all. For one week. No studies, no quizzes, no lessons too. Hmmm. . .I'd be happy and sad. I'd miss my friends and classmates but it would be fun to be free to do what I'd like to do for one whole week.

On the first day, I'd plan the whole week out. I'd make sure I'll get to do all the things I am not able to do during school days.

After the planning, I'd go ahead and enjoy my week. I would surf the Internet and browse www.pulp-mag.com. I'd look for more interesting sites and webpages to explore. I would chat in www.yahoo.com . I'd also watch my favorite TV shows "Curious Play," "Akira," and "Tougenkiyoshu."

I would ride my bike in the park or hang out in my cousin's house. We would buy pearl shakes every day. I'd probably order the flavors chocolate, cookies n' cream, and mocha.

But I would miss my friends and classmates. I would miss having so many people to talk to and laugh with. So I'd also be sad sometimes during the week.

I remember a semestral break when my classmate Harry called me. He rang up to ask about something not very important but I ended up asking him if any of our classmates hung out in school during the break instead of staying home. He said he saw our classmates Rachelle, Mikku, Shaun, Cherrylyn, and Algernon at the campus.

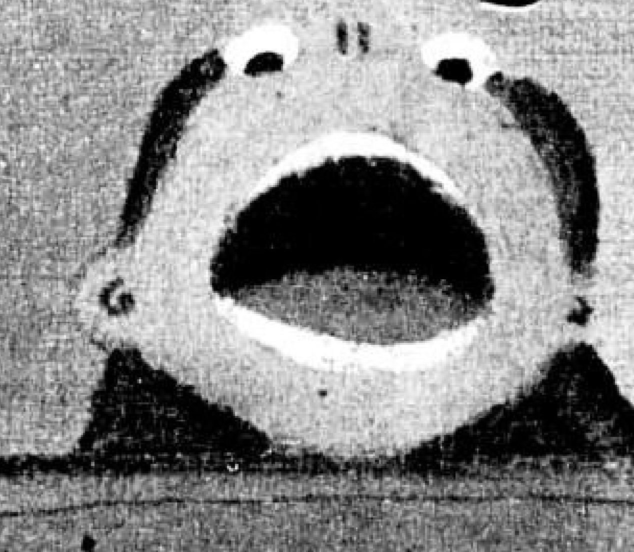
That semestral break, I missed my friends Bryan, Rachelle, Shaun, Kayslyn, Cherrylyn, and Ana V. so much. I also missed my teacher Ms Cherryl Ballao.

I remember wishing the break would pass quickly because I wanted to see them again.

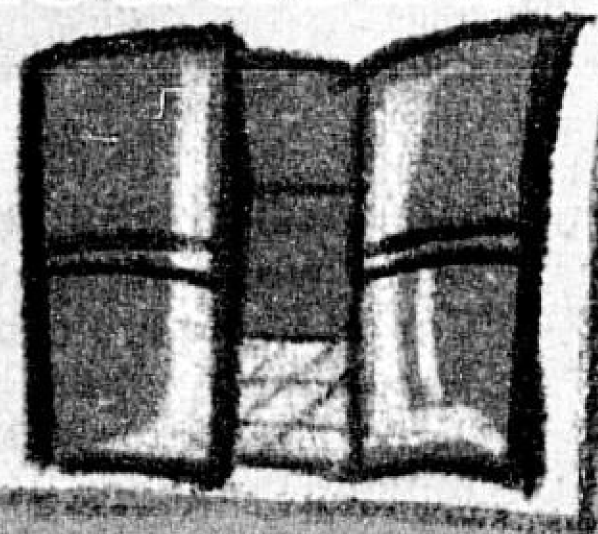
Now I know better. Next semestral break I will make sure I get all their phone numbers so I can call them when I'm lonely or bored.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

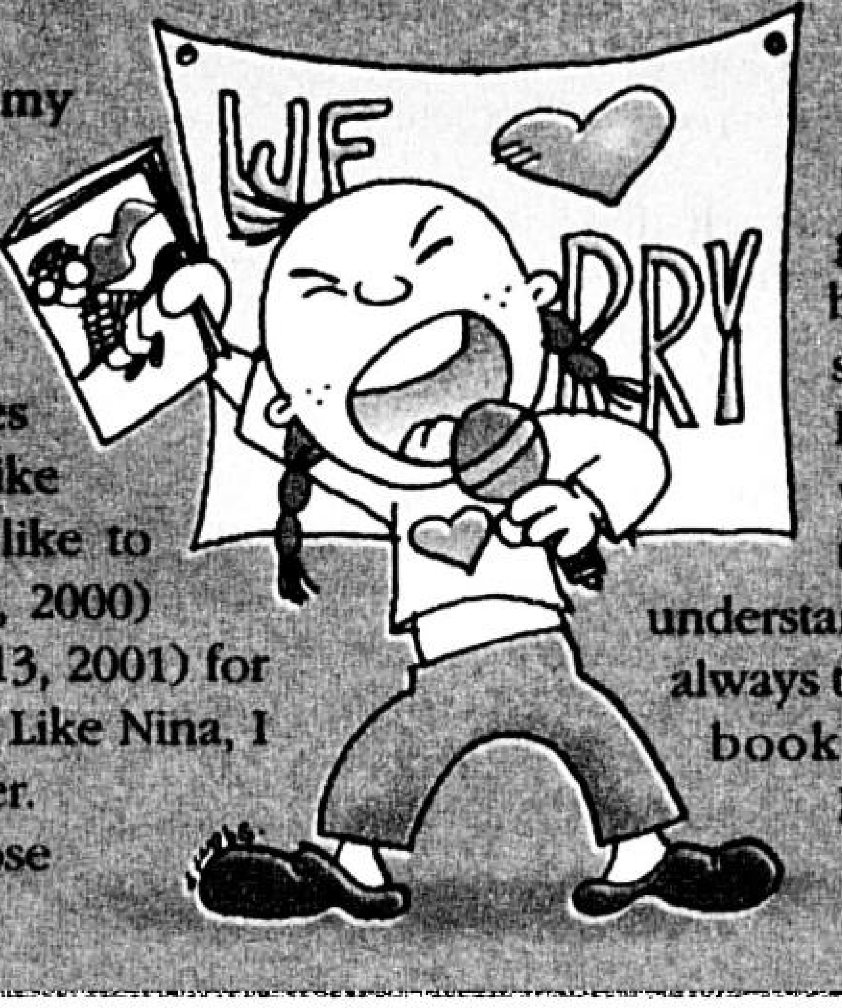
Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Harry Potter debate



DEAR Editor,

I would just like to voice my opinion regarding the letter of Regina Buenaventura (JI, Jan. 27, 2001). The book series "Harry Potter" does involve witchcraft, but it isn't entirely about it! It focuses more on other important values, like friendship and bravery. I'd also like to thank Mithi R. Sevilla (JI, Oct. 28, 2000) and Nina Ana H. Espiritu (JI, Jan 13, 2001) for defending the Harry Potter series. Like Nina, I am also a huge fan of Harry Potter.

I'd like to give out advice for those people who keep on spreading rumors about the book. Why don't you just grab a book (buy from a bookstore or borrow from someone) and start reading? I'm sure you'll understand why us Harry Potter fans feel the way we do. You'll understand why us Harry Potter fans always take our stand and defend the books.—**ERIKA PAOLA M. MIGRIÑO**, Grade 5, St. Paul College, Pasig City

Junior Inquirer

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One... (from page 1)

Memory Library

Wainapel knew from childhood that he would eventually go blind. He has choroideremia, a rare inherited disorder that causes progressive degeneration of the retina and of cells in the back of the eye.

He knew he had to fill his "memory library" before his eyes stopped working. So he did.

He traveled. He read. He took photographs: His favorite, taken 25 years ago in the Swiss Alps, is blurry and impressionistic and it is proudly hung above his desk. He played chamber music: Other musicians marveled at his ability to sight-read.

And, although his parents tried to persuade him that life as a blind piano player might be easier than life as a blind physician, he went to Boston University School of Medicine. It seemed an obvious choice for the son of a doctor and nurse, even though Wainapel knew he could never hop in a car and make house calls, as his father had done.

"I couldn't be a surgeon," Wainapel says. "But no physician is master of everything." While in medical school he could still read large print, but by the time he started practicing, his peripheral vision was fading.

So Wainapel specialized in physiatry, in the healing and rehabilitation of patients with all sorts of ailments: lower back pain, hip replacements, carpal tunnel syndrome, chronic fatigue. He sees up to 200 patients a month. Not once, Wainapel says, has a patient been unnerved enough at his blindness to request another physician.

He reminds himself, as he reminds anyone who asks, that you don't need sight to feel the curve of a spine. "And what is the first thing you do when listening for a very soft heart murmur?" he says. "You close your eyes."

A growing darkness

In the past decade, Wainapel's central vision has deteriorated to the point that he can no longer read, and patients seem no more than shadows

One/p.9

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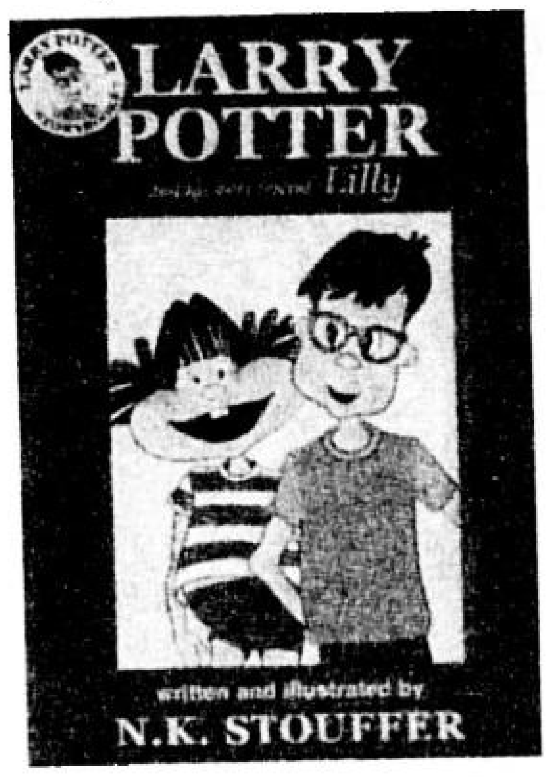
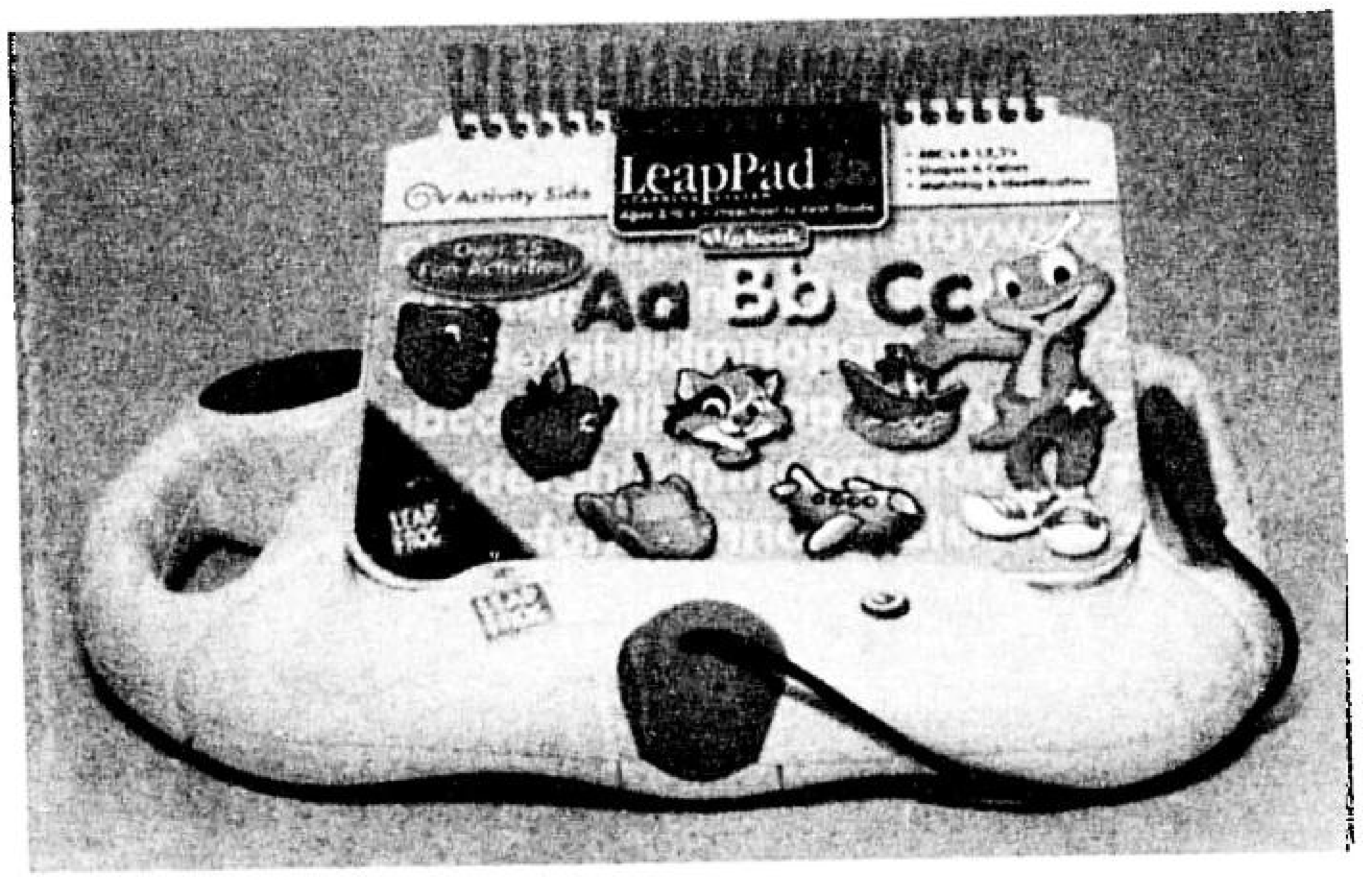
WORLD SCOPE

Meet Larry Potter

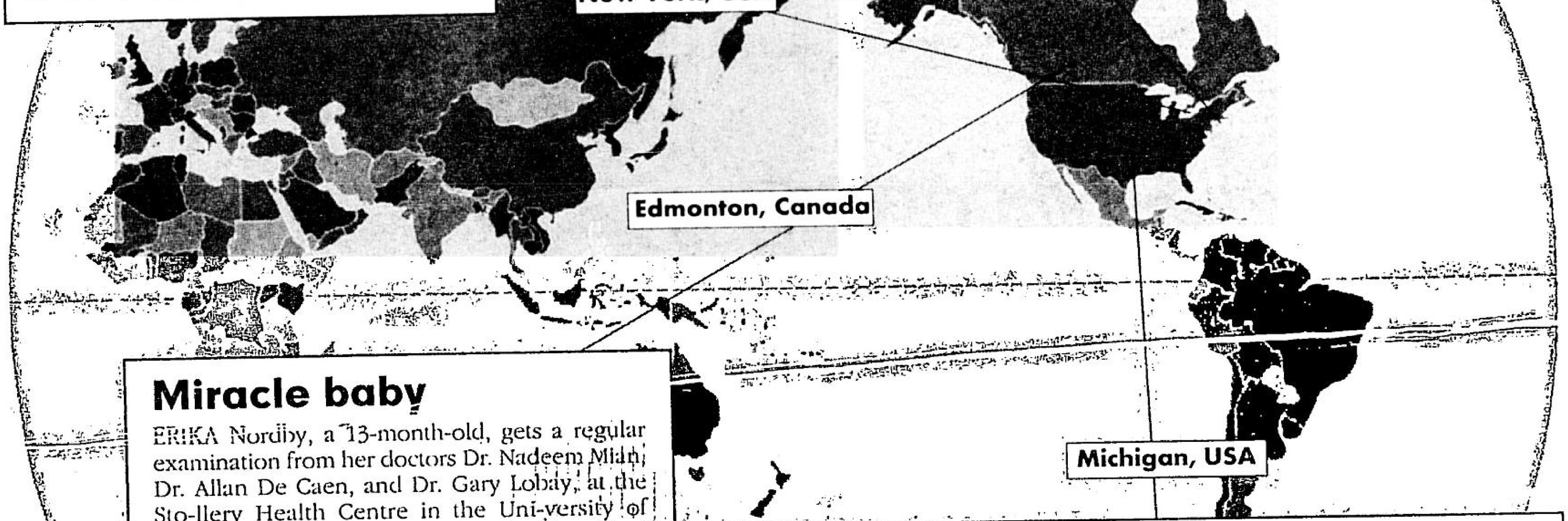
THIS is the cover of "Larry Potter and His Best Friend Lilly," one of the children's books by N.K. Stouffer, who is suing J.K. Rowling for allegedly stealing her ideas and using them in the very successful "Harry Potter" stories. Stouffer's "The Legend of Rah and the Muggles" will be reissued by Thurman House in May. The book was first published in 1984 and went out of print a few years later, long before the Potter series began. *AP*





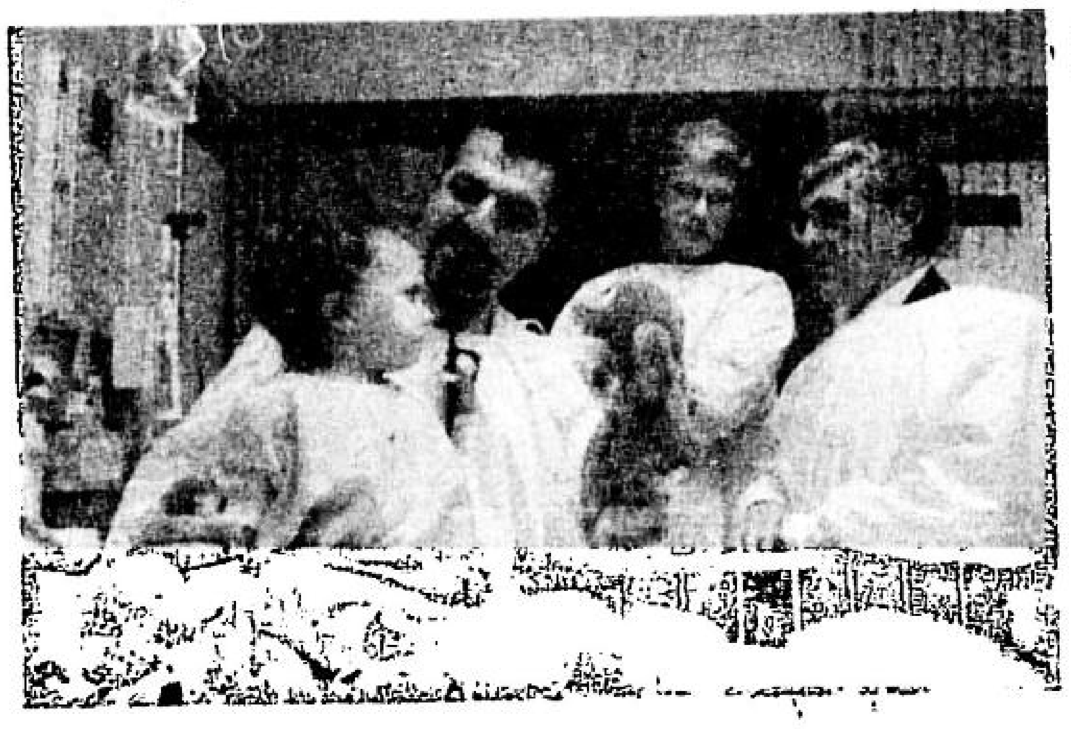
Smart toy?

THE "LEAPPAD Jr.," an interactive toy by LeapFrog Inc., is displayed in a toy fair. A number 'of toy companies, playing into parents' increasing anxiety to create smart children, have been going full throttle with toys that enlighten them on Mozart, aim to make them trilingual, and sharpen their logical reasoning skills. *AP*



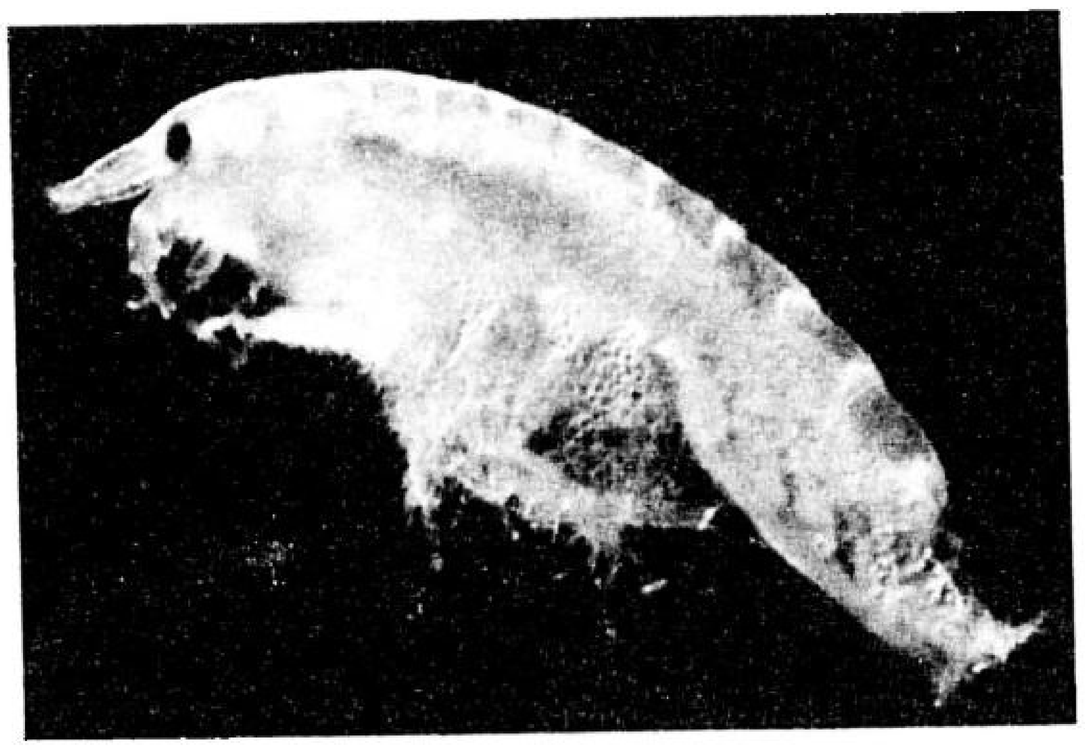
Miracle baby

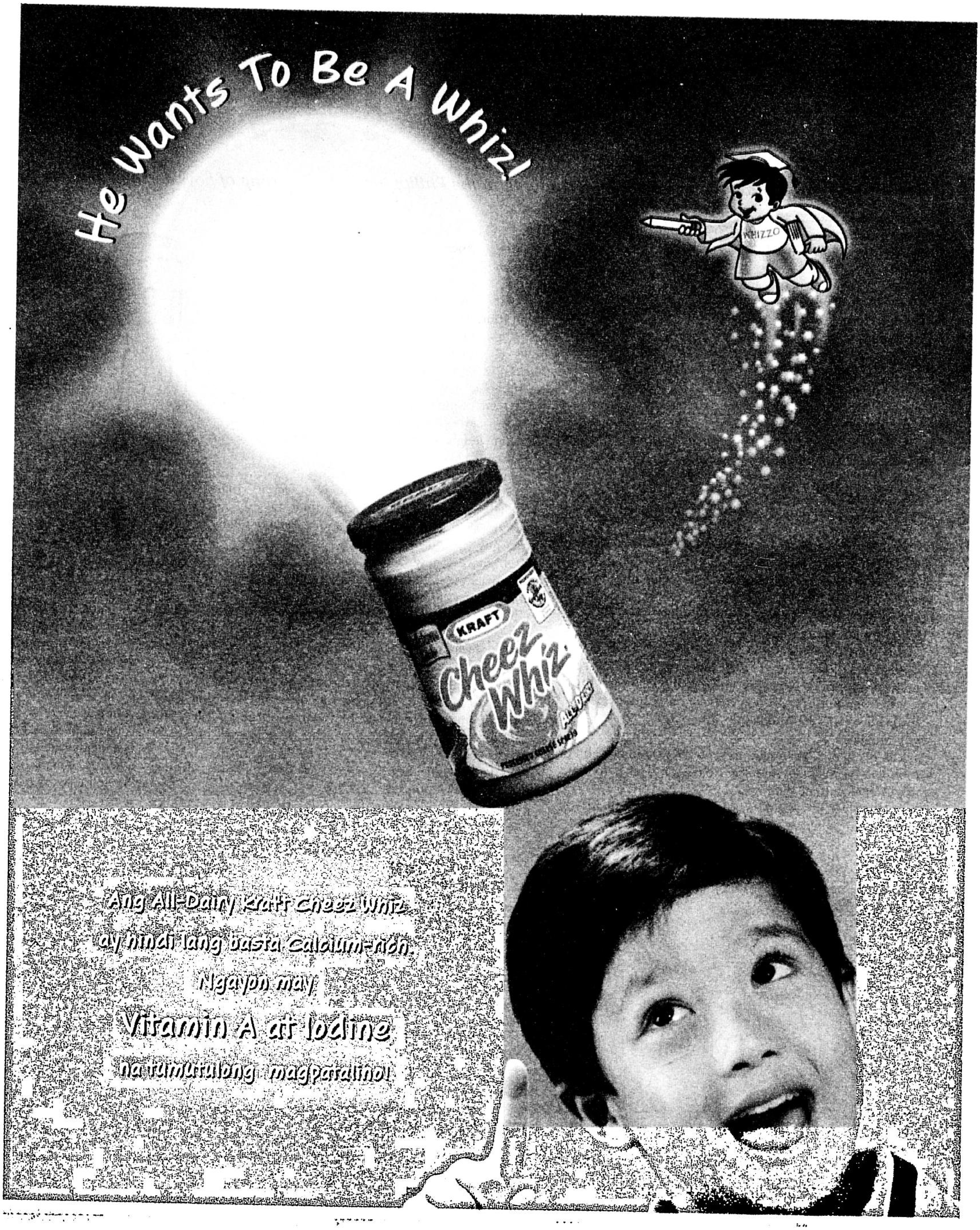
ERIKA Nordby, a 13-month-old, gets a regular examination from her doctors Dr. Nadeem Miah, Dr. Allan De Caen, and Dr. Gary Lobay, at the Sto-llery Health Centre in the Uni-versity of Alberta Hospital. A week ago, Erika wandered outside at night and ended up freezing in the snow. Doctors have marveled at her speedy recovery. *AP*



Fearing for fish food

THE DIPOREIA, shown in this undated photo, a primary source of food for young fish, is quickly disappearing from the United States' Great Lakes, according to scientists who fear its demise. The half-inch-long shrimp-like crustacean is already gone from Lake Erie and is declining at alarming rates from lakes Michigan, Ontario, and Huron. *AP*

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FOR or BY KIDS

Simrad and the

Simrad was excited about studying in the Philippines, until a group of boys decided to make fun of him

STORY BY JACQUELINE NICOLE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

HAVE YOU ever been bullied? Well, my story is about a boy bullied by a group of boys because he was different.

It all started with a boy from India named Simrad Singh. He was 12 years old and his family had moved to the Philippines from India. He was pretty excited on his first day as a sixth-grader in a Philippine school. He expected to make lots of good friends and that school life here would be almost similar to life in India.

When he heard his school bus honk, Simrad quickly kissed his parents goodbye and ran out to get on.

"Good luck on your first day son, and please be careful," shouted his mother.

"I will Mama, thank you, bye!" said Simrad.

ON THE BUS, his stomach began to twist and turn. He was nervous. What if they don't like me, he thought. What if they tease me, he wondered. He was near tears when another boy suddenly sat beside him.

"Hi there! My name is John," the boy said.

"Hello too! I'm Simrad Singh."

"You must be new here."

"Yes, indeed I am," Simrad said. "I'm new to this country. My family and I moved here from India two weeks ago."

"Well then *mabuhay!* And you can call me John, but everyone in the class calls me Mukha."

"Why Mukha?"

"Mukha is my nickname here in school. Here in the Philippines, *mukha* means face. And see, I have a big face. So that's what my friends call me," John said.

"Oh! Now I get it," Simrad said. "But I prefer calling you John rather than Mukha."

THE TWO boys chatted a little more. Simrad was happy because he knew that he already made a new friend. Once they reach school the two friends quickly parted.

But there was one thing that Simrad didn't know about John. He didn't know that John was a bully and a member of the Bully Gang, a group of big boys. The members of the gang were Sean, Wahl, Miguel, Harold, Paulo, Gerome, and John.

After parting with Simrad, John immediately strode to the back of the school where the gang always met.

"Guys, guys, guess what," John said, laughing.

"Don't laugh or I'll knock off your face," said Sean.

"OK, OK, just guess."

"Come on, tell us!" said Miguel.

"I just happened to meet our new victim," John said. "His name is Simrad Singh. I think he's in our class. He says that he is from India. He's a totally stupid guy."

"Oh good! A new victim," said Wahl.

"Now let me think—what are we supposed to do to him now?" says Harold.

"Bully him, of course—and I've got a perfect plan," replied Sean.

"All right let's do it," said Gerome.

AS THE BULLIES went to class they talked about what they are going to do to Simrad. They saw him near the classroom. They deceived Simrad by greeting him with a warm welcome. But just before everyone took their seat, Sean placed an egg in Simrad's chair.

Crack! went the egg as Simrad sat down. To his surprise Simrad quickly stood up.

"Look everybody, Simrad laid an egg," John yelle
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But the class' te
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Simrad got really a
and afraid.

"GIVE us your money
one recess time.

"No I will not g
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"Want to give us
bully you, *ha?*" threa

But Simrad was t
"I mean No!"

The whole gang
used to say anything when the

"Look at what you guys ha
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"If you were in my place," Si
your place and I teased you so m
is fine with me if you tease me
treating me like I'm a piece of ba
to me, but I'm mistaken—all of y

Simrad went home after that

Bully Gang

very day. Read on and find out how Simrad tamed "The Bully Gang"

d. Everybody began laughing.
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there for the rest of the day.
back in India.
icher was so kind that he de-
ng recess, more pranks were
ng teased and played jokes on
weeks. It wasn't long before
ngry instead of just homesick

Simrad," said Harold to Simrad

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s singing," teased Paulo.
our money or you want us to
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was taken aback. Simrad never
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u are fakers especially you John!"
. He didn't even bother to attend classes after recess time.

"WHAT are we going to do now?" asked Paulo.

"I don't know," answered Sean and Wahl in unison. The boys all felt guilty and for the first time since the Bully Gang's existence, it occurred to them that perhaps they had gone too far.

"I, uh. . .I think that we should apologize to Simrad," Miguel said.

"I guess you're right. But it's my fault," said John. "It was my idea to bully Simrad."

"Do not blame yourself," Harold said. "It's everyone's fault."

"Well then, it's settled," Gerome said. "We'll go to his house to apologize first thing tomorrow morning."

"GOOD morning Mrs. Singh," Sean said to Simrad's mother. That Saturday morning, the gang had to wake up extra early to look for Simrad's house. "May we please talk to Simrad?"

"Just a minute," Simrad's mother said.

A few minutes later Simrad came to the door.

"What do you want?" Simrad said, still angry.

"We would like to apologize to you," Sean said, barely able to look at Simrad. "We admit our faults and we've been mean to you."

At first Simrad didn't feel like forgiving them. But he saw that the bullies were actually sincere about their apology.

"Apology accepted," Simrad finally said. "I just hope that you guys won't do it again to me or to other kids in school."

"Don't worry we already learned our lesson," Sean said with relief.

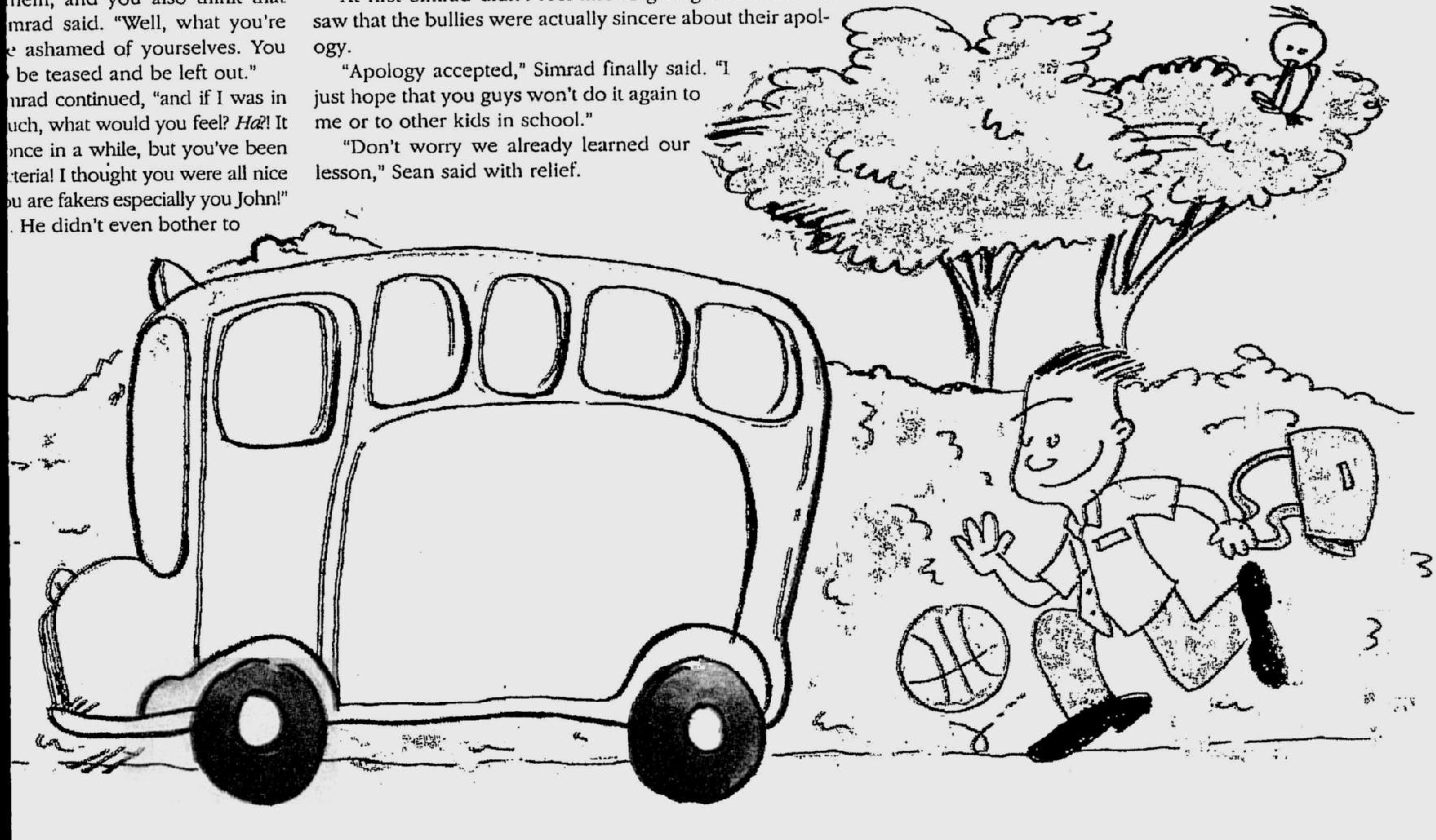
THAT DAY, the Bully Gang was invited by Simrad to stay for a while in their house to chat and taste his mother's Indian cooking. They realized all the more how unfair they had been to Simrad as well as to all the kids they had bullied. And Simrad realized that the Bully Gang may not be so hopeless after all. He persuaded them to take the time to apologize to all the kids they had teased. And that day, the Bully Gang ceased to exist. It became the Save Our Friends Club and with Simrad as president.

Finally, living and studying in the Philippines was turning out to be almost as good as his life in India. He was able to make good friends.

Today, Simrad is a second year high school student and is doing well with his studies. He likes hanging out with his good friends: former members of the Bully Gang.

Jacqueline *lives in Quezon City. Her tale is based on a true story.*

Steph *works as a staff artist in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. She also lives in Quezon City and has a cat named Sammy and a dog named Manny.*



CAMPUS
NEWS

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

In Charge

BY JAIME LEOGRADO
GRADE 6, ST. CAMPION
XAVIER SCHOOL

ON FEB. 2-4, 2001, the Grades 4 to 7 Boy Scouts of Xavier School underwent an important scouting tradition, a three-day camp. It was held at Bluroze Farms in Batangas. It was special because the senior scouts were given a chance to be in charge of the camp while the adult leaders only assisted. This was a perfect opportunity for us to exercise our leadership skills.

We left Xavier after lunch and arrived at the campsite a few hours later. The campsite was very nice and clean. Immediately, we set up all our tents and made our patrol flags, scripted and practiced our cheers, yells, songs, and rehearsed our skits for the campfire.

We had lots of fun with different kinds of activities. We had a session on Morse code where we used our flashlights.

The second day was the best day for me because from then on we cooked our own food. Our patrol prepared corned beef, *tocino*, luncheon meat, and rice.

At first, we had a really hard time trying to start the fire. We had to remember and apply all the skills we learned at school about fire building. We also had lectures using the base method and games which were fashioned like an obstacle course.

CHEFS TO BE? Fried *tocino*, luncheon meat, and corned beef taste good in the woods!

> "This camp is one experience that I will not forget any time soon"

That night, we had a campfire, a bravery test, and an observation and sensory test. The campfire wasn't what we expected it to be but it was still fun. The bravery test was a challenge to both the strong and fainthearted. It was scarier for the older scouts like me because we had to complete the task alone.

The task? Well, I'm afraid we can't write it here lest I spoil the excitement for the next batches of campers. The observation and sensory test was a test of all five senses. We were blindfolded and asked to identify sounds, smells, tastes, sights and things to touch. One really had to concentrate to guess the answers right!

Finally on the third day, we had a swimming activity before breaking the camp. Only the senior scouts got to swim in the deep part but the other scouts were allowed to swim in the shallow part. Then we had lunch and before we knew it, it was time to go. Thus ended our three-day camp in Batangas.

I had lots of fun being with fellow scouts, learning new things and being close to nature. I'm sure this camp is one experience that I will not forget any time soon.

CAMPSITE CURIOSITIES. Looking for the perfect spot to pitch our tents.

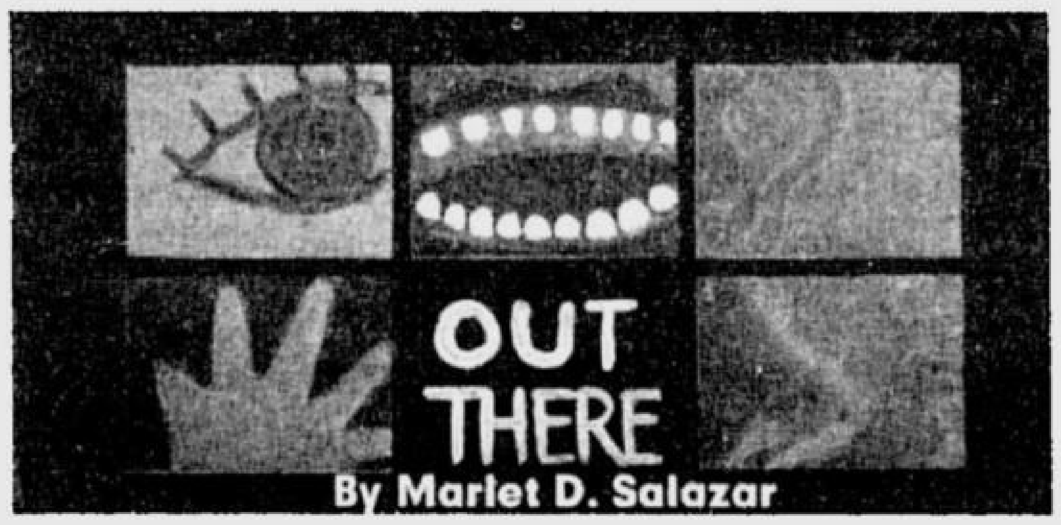
Workshops

ART'S COOL. Summer's hot, but art is definitely cool in "Art's Cool," Museo Pambata's summer workshops program. Try out these any of these classes in painting, theater arts, crafts, and language.

The art and painting class is open to students 4 to 16 years old and focuses on basic drawing, pastel, watercolor, and oil painting.

Classes will be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday beginning April 17, except for the language arts workshop which will he held on Saturdays beginning April 21. Workshop fee is inclusive of materials. To enroll in "Art's Cool," visit Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila or call 523-1797-98. Last day of enrolment is on April 16, 2001.

SUMMER BALLET. Dreaming of becoming a ballerina? Start early at Effie Nañas School of Classical Ballet. Classes will be held every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday for kids 4 years old and above. It starts on April 1. There will be a ballet recital on May 27. For more info call up 633-7871. The Effie Nañas School of Classical Ballet is located at the 4/L Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.



By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

LEARNING CAMP. Sacred Heart School invites kids 1-½ to 8 years old to experience a free summer learning camp today, and on April 14, 28 and May 26. Learn and have fun with its line-up of activities: arts, crafts, cooking, storytelling, games, singing, dancing plus a lot more. Call 810-8506, 894-2273, 815-3058 for more details. You can drop by their office at 2241, Sabio St. (corner Chino Roces Ave.) San Lorenzo, Makati City.

SCIENCE CAMP. Calling all high school science club members! The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs will be conducting its annual Youth Science, Technology and Environment Summer Camp on April 3-9 at BSP Capitol Hills Scout Camp, Cebu City. Enjoy the field trip, booth fair and festival, and sportsfest. If you're interested call up 920-8174, 920-9561 or send an e-mail to psysc@i-next.net. You can also visit them at 317 C David's Place, Katipunan Ave., 1108 Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

LEARN AT THE CAMP. Children ages 2-10 can discover the joy of music, ballet, arts and craft, cooking and baking, science and nature, and reading at the Learning Campus Summer Workshop. For more info call 817-8694 or visit them at C. Palanca Jr. St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

YOUNG WRITERS. Improve your writing skills in the Tower Book House's summer writing workshop. Young writers ages 9-18 are invited to join. For details call up 815-4938, 815-6925 or drop by Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

One. . .

(from page 3)

when they sit across his desk. For all his assurance and acceptance, there are days when the loss has seemed unbearably cruel.

Wainapel has raged at the fact he can no longer sight-read music. And he knows that if he and his wife, Wendy, are successful in their quest to adopt a Chinese baby, he will never see the child's face.

Still, these days Wainapel is more at ease talking about his blindness. He doesn't care when patients gasp at the huge black sprawl on their prescriptions: most doctors' prescriptions are illegible anyway, he jokes. And he proudly shows them his Typoscope, a thin plastic wedge that he uses to mark the spot for his signature.

But he doesn't do injections anymore. His secretary speed-reads his mail aloud. And he can't read X-rays. Minor inconveniences, says his longtime friend, Dr. Avital Fast, chair of the department.

Reading all the time

"In our society there is a huge stigma to being disabled," Fast says. "And by voluntarily taking on that stigma every time he uses his cane, Stanley becomes an inspiration to others with disabilities."

Inam Rihan, a 38-year-old mother of six, suffers from lower back pain and a thyroid disorder. After Wainapel has diagnosed a slipped disc, Rihan complains that cataracts are making it difficult for her to read.

"You don't have to see in order to read," Wainapel said excitedly, pulling out his latest book-on-tape: "The Shipping News" by E. Annie Proulx. "I read all the time."

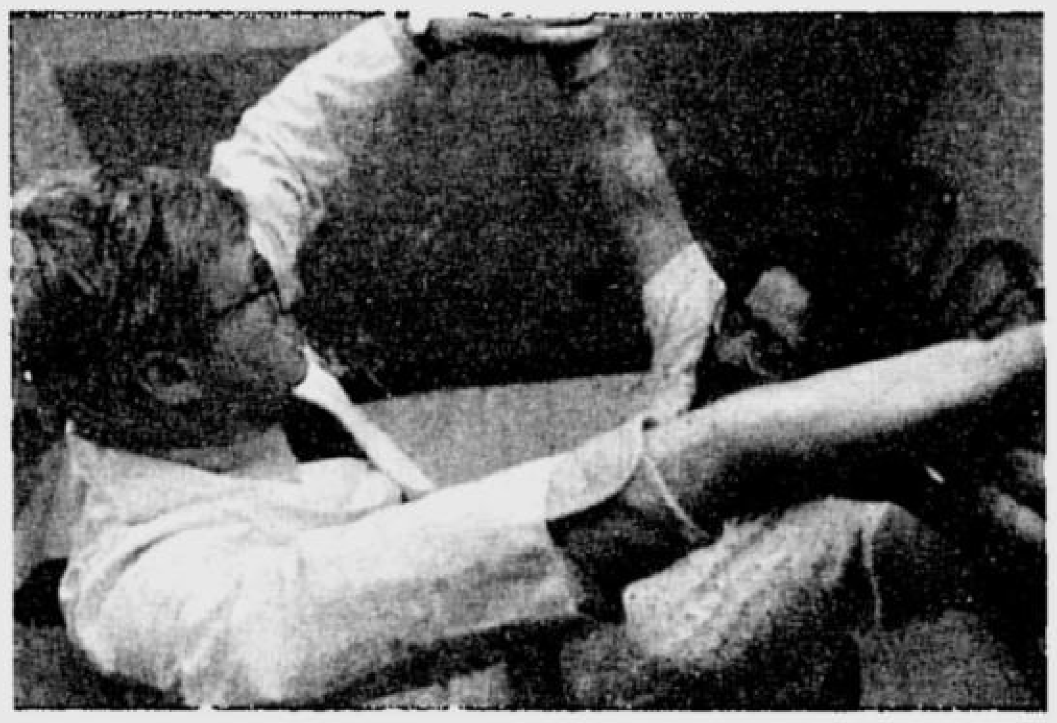
By the time she leaves, Rihan is armed with all sorts of information for the visually impaired, including numbers for Wainapel's own ophthalmologist and the National Library Service for the Blind. She's also been introduced to violinist Oskar Shumsky, whose music plays softly throughout her visit.

Hospital melodies

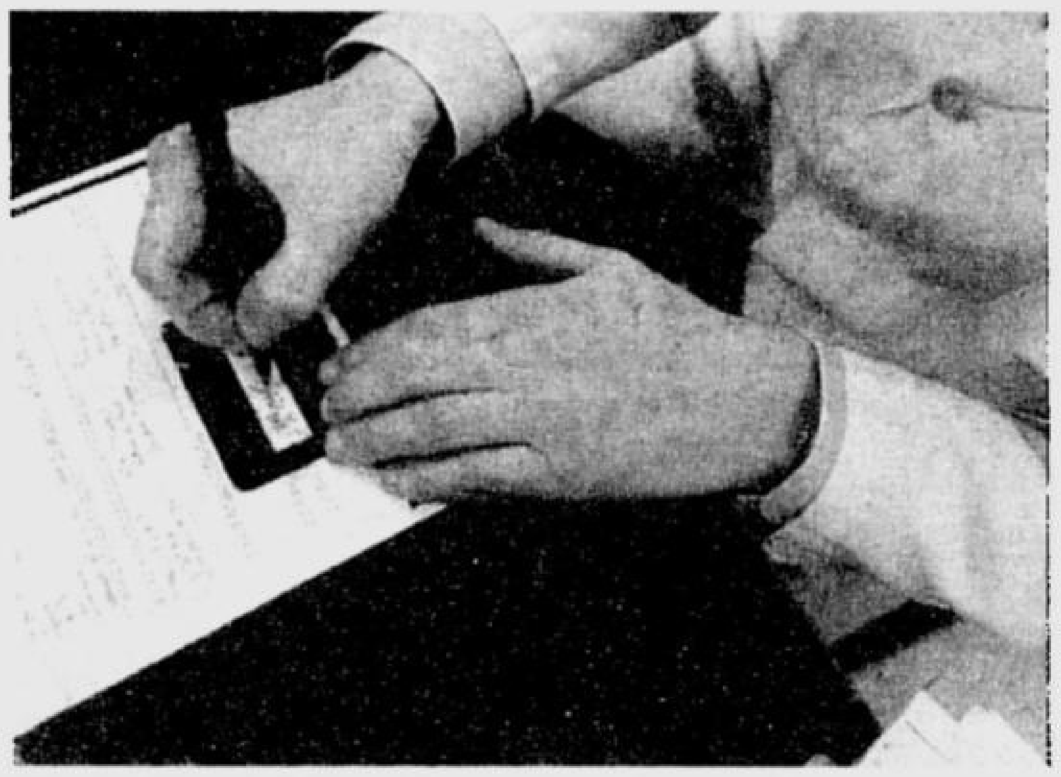
Other patients are introduced to Dickens: Wainapel has written about the English author's penchant for disabled heroes in his novels. Or to Beethoven: Wainapel has written about the effect of the musician's deafness on his talent.

Wainapel rarely gives piano recitals anymore, but that has more to do with a tight schedule than with blindness. And then some days, when there is a lull between patients, he tap-taps his way upstairs to the hospital community room. The piano is as old and tired as the plastic flowers on the tables. Most in the audience, a dozen or so elderly patients in wheelchairs, are dozing.

Suddenly, a Chopin polonaise fills the room, soft and enchanting and so otherworldly that nurses pause on their rounds to listen and patients take a break from their pain. For 15 minutes on a busy morning, the blind piano-playing doctor creates a little piece of wonder in Montefiore. *AP*



DEDICATED PHYSICIAN. Dr. Wainapel examines his patient, Maryann Collom. The blind doctor specializes in the healing and rehabilitation of patients with all sorts of painful ailments. AP



TYPOSCOPE. Dr. Wainapel uses a "Typoscope," a plastic device, which allows him to sign documents accurately. AP

¿ThinkathoN?

By Bong Barrameda

Presidential High Schools

DO YOU know which high schools the country's presidents attended? To pass this tough test, pick the institution you think is right in each number. (**Note:** Some of the listed schools are fictitious.)

1. **Emilio Aguinaldo**
   A. Kawit High School
   B. Cavite Parochial School
   C. San Juan de Letran

2. **Manuel L. Quezon**
   X. Baler High School
   Y. Tayabas National School
   Z. San Juan de Letran

3. **Jose P. Laurel**
   A. Tanauan High School
   B. Batangas Provincial High School
   C. Manila High School

4. **Sergio Osmena, Sr.**
   X. Cebu High School
   Y. University of San Carlos
   Z. San Juan de Letran

5. **Manuel A. Roxas**
   A. Capiz High School
   B. University of San Agustin
   C. Manila High School

6. **Elpidio Quirino**
   X. Vigan High School
   Y. Ilocos Sur Provincial High School
   Z. Manila High School

7. **Ramon Magsaysay**
   A. Iba High School
   B. Zambales Academy
   C. Jose Rizal College

8. **Carlos P. Garcia**
   X. Bohol Provincial High School
   Y. Cebu Provincial High School
   Z. UP High School

9. **Diosdado Macapagal**
   A. Lubao High School
   B. Pampanga High School
   C. UP High School

10. **Ferdinand Marcos**
   X. Sarrat High School
   Y. Paoay High School
   Z. UP High School

11. **Corazon C. Aquino**
   A. St. Scholastica's College
   B. Assumption Convent
   C. Ravenhill Academy (Philadelphia)

12. **Fidel V. Ramos**
   X. Lingayen High School
   Y. Pangasinan Provincial High School
   Z. UP High School

13. **Joseph Ejercito Estrada**
   A. Tondo High School
   B. Ateneo de Manila
   C. Mapua Institute of Technology

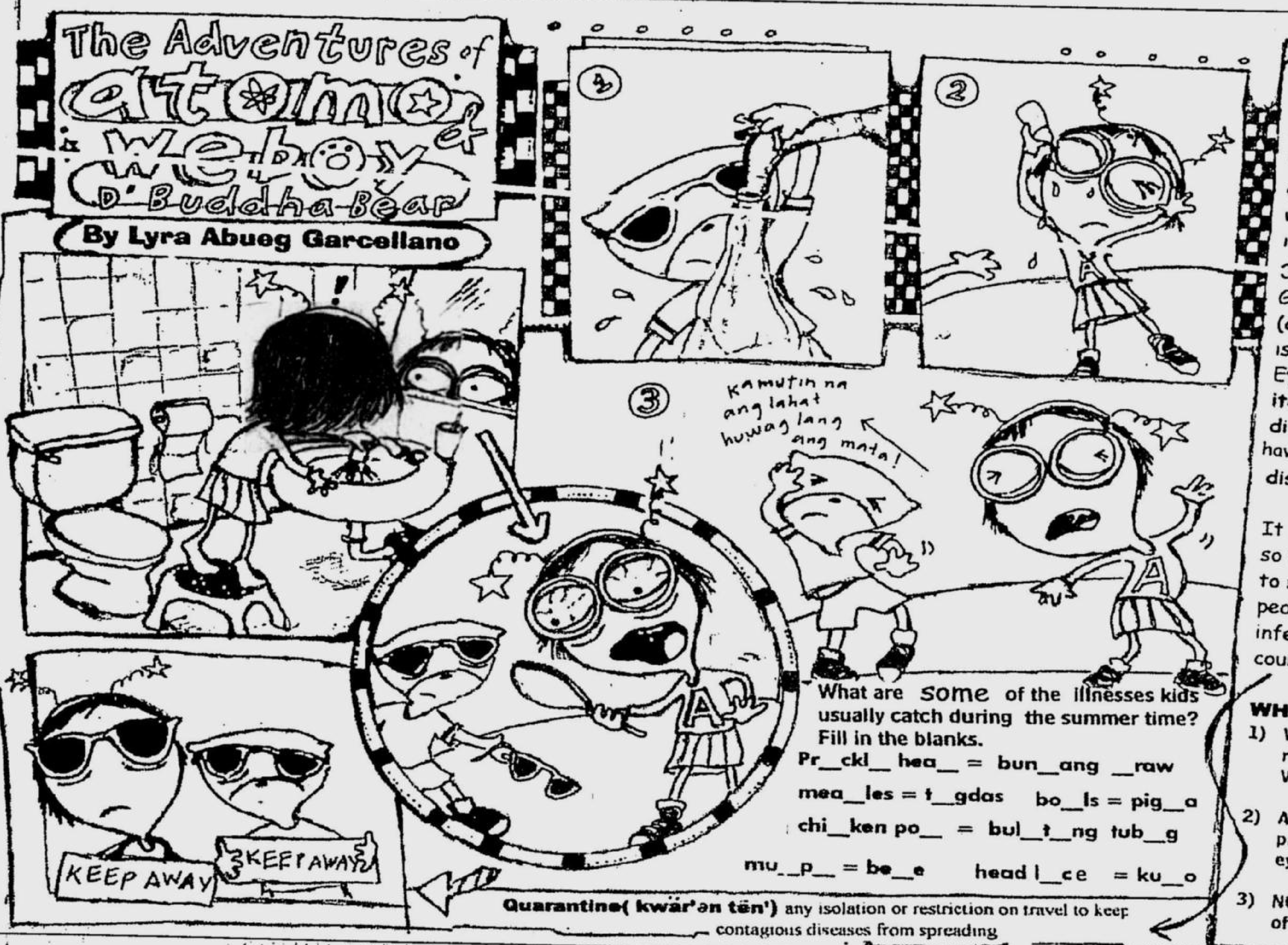
14. **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**
   X. Assumption Convent
   Y. UP High School
   Z. Georgetown University

Answers:

1. C *(Did not finish)*
2. Z
3. C *(Now, Araullo High School)*
4. Z *(He and Quezon were classmates)*
5. C
6. Z
7. B
8. Y
9. B
10. Z
11. C
12. Z
13. B *(Did not finish)*
14. X

Ratings:

superbrain!
12 - 14
excellent!
9 - 11
good!
6 - 8


The Adventures of atomo & weboy d' Buddha Bear
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kamutin na ang lahat huwag lang ang mata!
KEEP AWAY
KEEP AWAY

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

What are some of the illnesses kids usually catch during the summer time? Fill in the blanks.

Pr__ckl__ hea__ = bun__ang __raw

mea__les = t__gdas bo__ls = pig__a

chi__ken po__ = bul__t__ng tub__g

mu__p__ = be__e head l__ce = ku__o

Quarantine(kwär'ən tēn') any isolation or restriction on travel to keep contagious diseases from spreading

EEK!

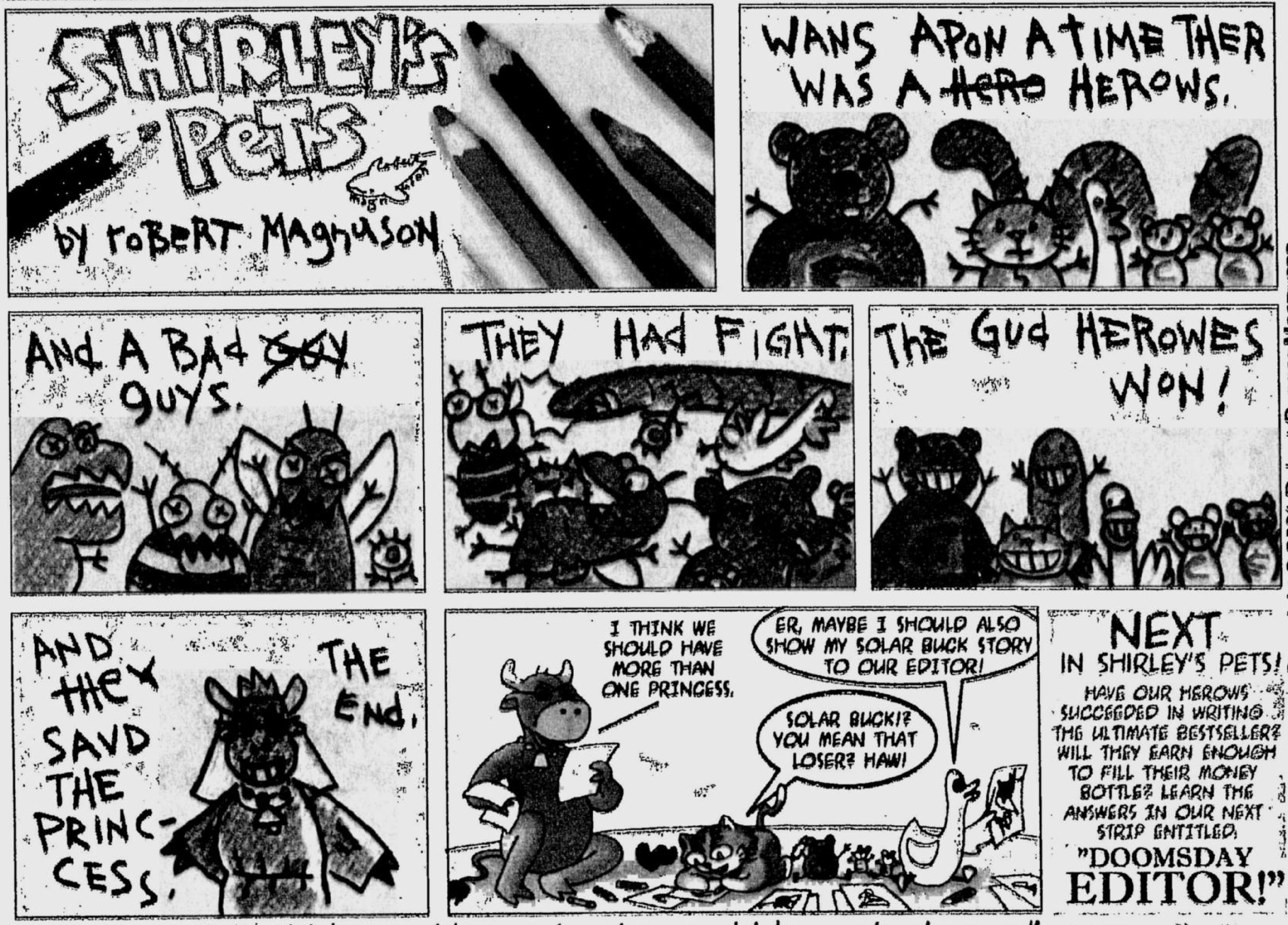
It's summer time again! 'Tis the season of fun, games, warm weather & icky summer diseases.

Getting sore eyes (conjunctivitis) is just one of them. Eyes become **red**, **itchy**, really **discomforting** and have that funny **discharge**.

It is also contagious so that means one has to stay away from people first until the infection runs its course.

WHAT TO DO...

1) Wash eyes under running water. Wash your hands, too!
2) Ask your doctor to prescribe you some eye drops.
3) NO, NO, NO RUBBING of THE EYES!


SHiRLEY's PeTS
by roBERT MagnuSON
WANS APON A TIME THER WAS A ~~Hero~~ HEROWS.
AND A BAd ~~GUY~~ GUYS.
THEY HAd FIGHT.
The GUd HEROWES WON!
AND ~~they~~ SAVD THE PRINC-CESS.
THE End.
I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE MORE THAN ONE PRINCESS.
ER, MAYBE I SHOULD ALSO SHOW MY SOLAR BUCK STORY TO OUR EDITOR!
SOLAR BUCK!? YOU MEAN THAT LOSER? HAW!
NEXT IN SHIRLEY'S PETS!
HAVE OUR HEROWS SUCCEEDED IN WRITING THE ULTIMATE BESTSELLER? WILL THEY EARN ENOUGH TO FILL THEIR MONEY BOTTLE? LEARN THE ANSWERS IN OUR NEXT STRIP ENTITLED:
"DOOMSDAY EDITOR!"

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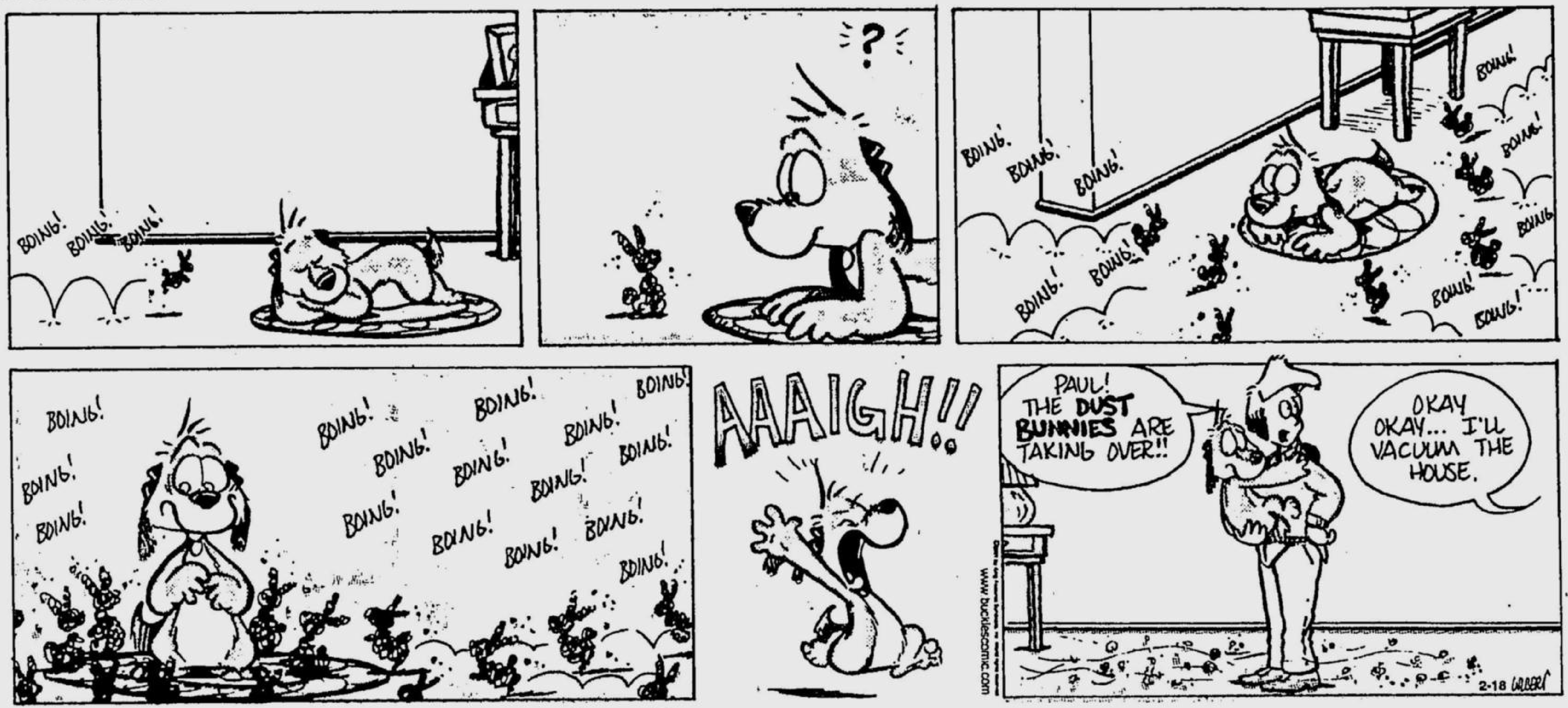
Visit Shirley and her pets at www.shirleyspets.cheesedip.com

BUCKLES **BY DAVID GILBERT**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AAAIGH!!
PAUL! THE **DUST BUNNIES** ARE TAKING OVER!!
OKAY OKAY... I'LL VACUUM THE HOUSE.
www.bucklescomic.com
2-18 GILBERT

THERE'S A PRIZE IN MY PRETZELS!
JACK 'n JILL
chocolate
PRETZELS
JUNGLE JAMBOREE
JACK 'n JILL
chocolate
PRETZELS

Open a box of Jack 'n Jill Pretzels and get FREE WILD ANIMAL STICKERS! Scratch the back of the sticker and you could win exciting Safari Trips to Singapore and Palawan, plus Sony Playstations!

Congratulations to the first set of Sony PlayStation winners:

Maria Nazarene Vicente, Quezon City
John Iseiah Dabu, San Juan
Gene Ray Gomez Jr., San Juan
Susan/Ernesto Baila, Mandaluyong
Marci Aliza Andrino, Cebu City
Alvin Morales, Cebu City
Jan Mikhail Galawa, Cebu City
Lyndon Cris Fuentes, Cebu City
Mark Vivas, Iloilo City
Rosita Castro, Urdaneta City
John Arreza, Leyte

YOU CAN STILL JOIN & WIN!

- **1st Prize** - Singapore Safari
  2 winners of a 3day/2night trip for 3 to Singapore
- **2nd Prize** - Palawan Safari
  3 winners of a 3day/2night trip for 3 to Club Paradise
- **3rd Prize** - Sony Playstations with Dance Pad
- **4th Prize** - Jack 'n Jill Chocolate Pretzels Gift Packs

Here's how:

1. Get free wild animal stickers in every 40 or 70 gram Jack 'n Jill Chocolate Pretzels box. Behind every sticker card is a scratch and match game. Use a coin to lightly scratch off the three panels. If you get three prizes of the same kind on that card, you win!
2. Call the Jungle Jamboree Hotline immediately toll free 1800-1888-5455 or 864-8785 to know how to claim your prize.
3. For valid claims that are verified through the Jungle Jamboree Hotline, winners must present their winning card, a valid ID (school ID, driver's license, etc.) or proof of identification and the telegram sent to them.
   Only cards with authenticated security codes will be honored.
4. The promo is implemented nationwide. All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. Winners can only win once. In case a winner gets two winning cards, he/she gets the higher valued prize.
5. Prizes not claimed within 60 days after the promo period will be forfeited in favor of Universal Robina Corporation. In case of disputes, the decision of Universal Robina Corporation in concurrence with the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) shall be final.
6. This promotion is open to Philippine residents only. All employees of Universal Robina Corporation, McCann Erickson Philippines, Harrison Communications and their suppliers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo. Nationwide promo until May 31, 2001.

SINGAPORE SAFARI | SINGAPORE SAFARI | SINGAPORE SAFARI

Use coin to 'LIGHTLY' rub up the 3 boxes above. Get 3 of a kind to WIN. See Jack 'n Jill Chocolate Pretzels pack for details.

Per DTI-BFAD Permit No. 0313 Series of 2000.

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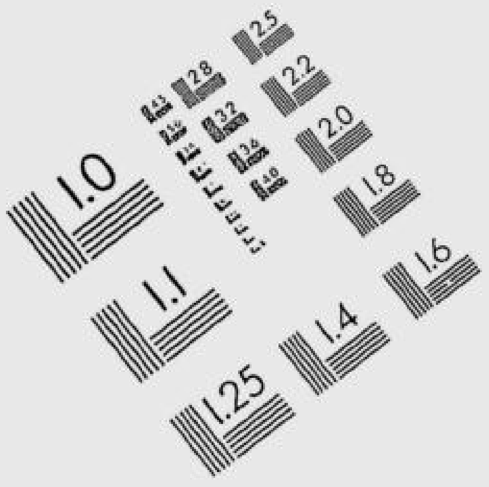
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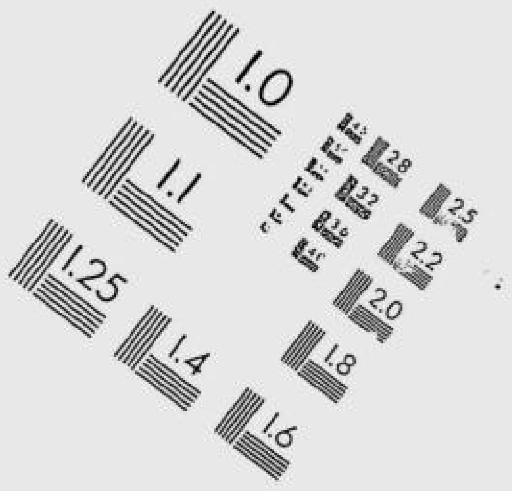
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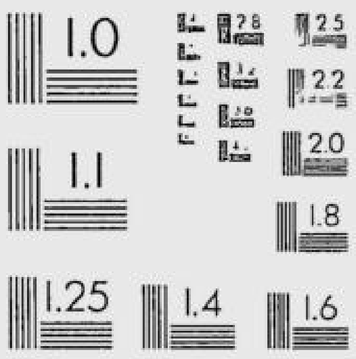
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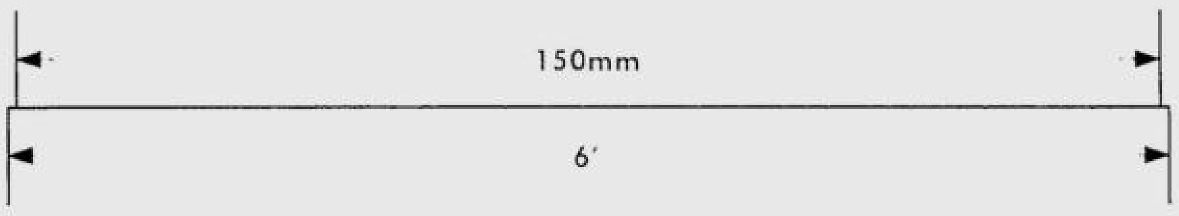

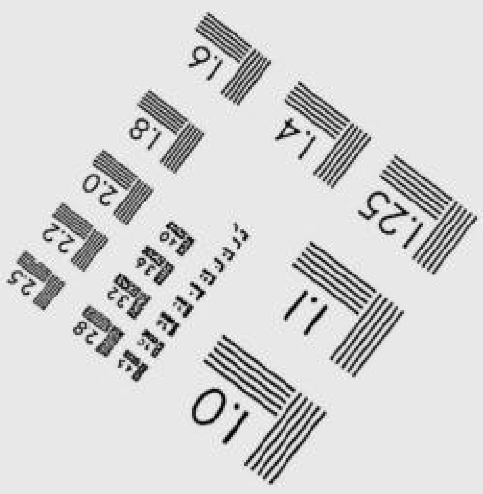
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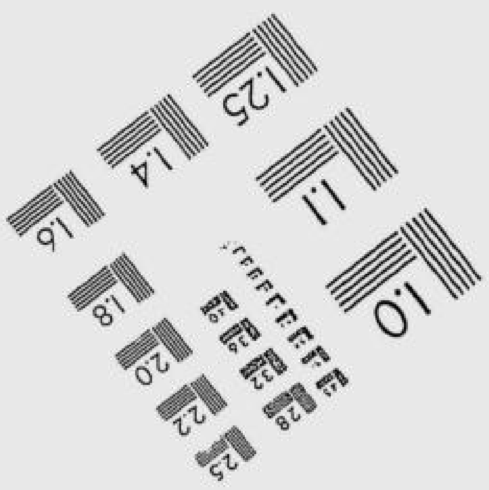
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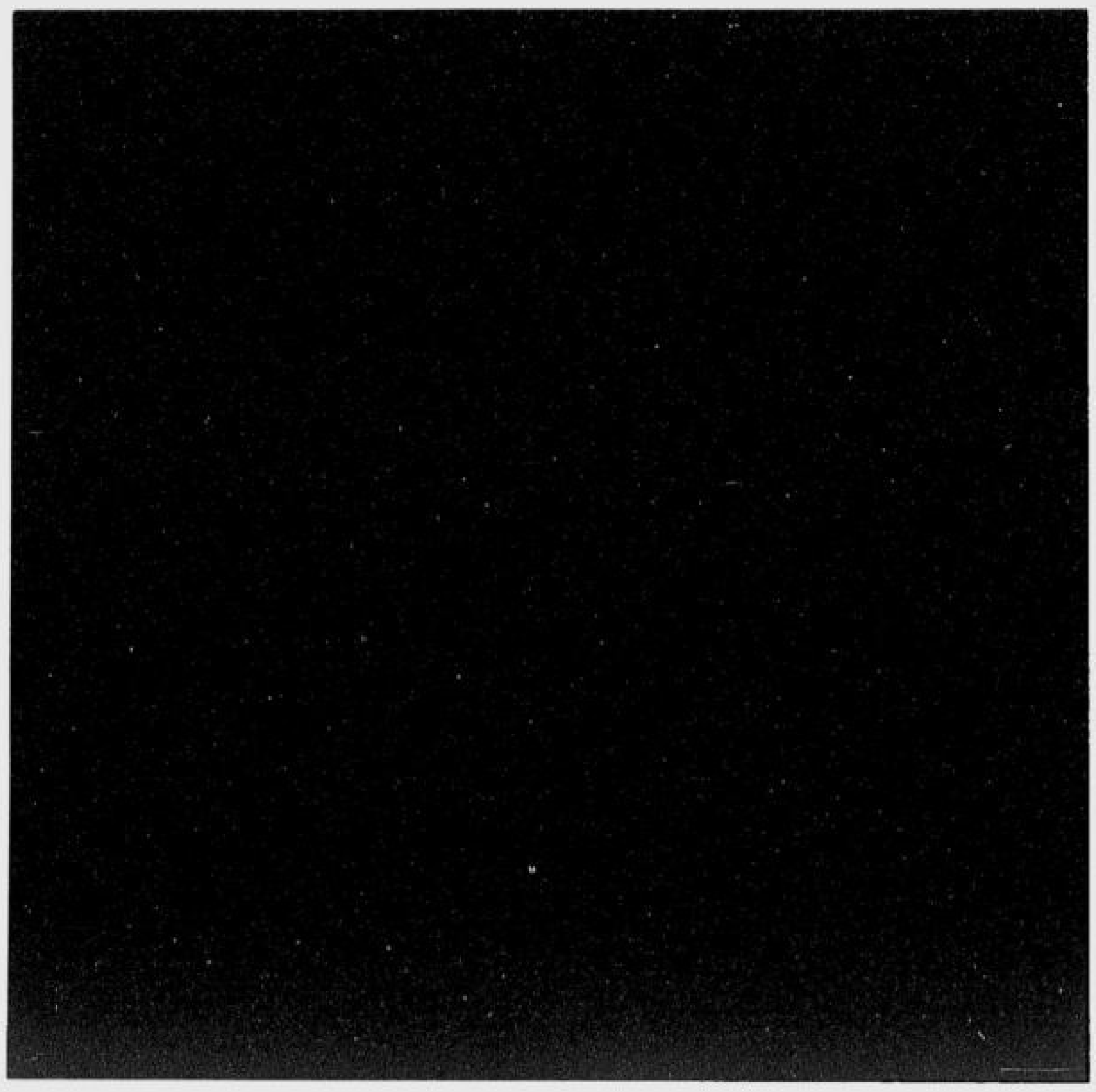

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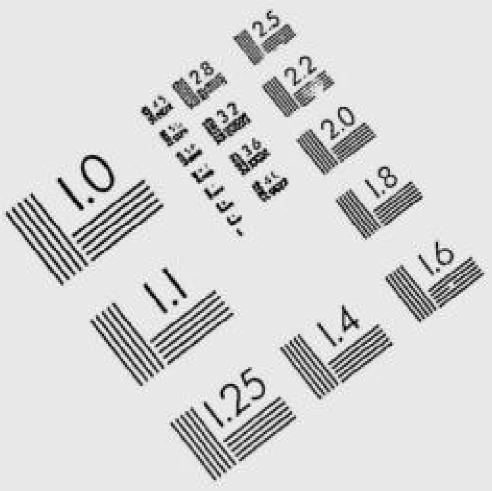
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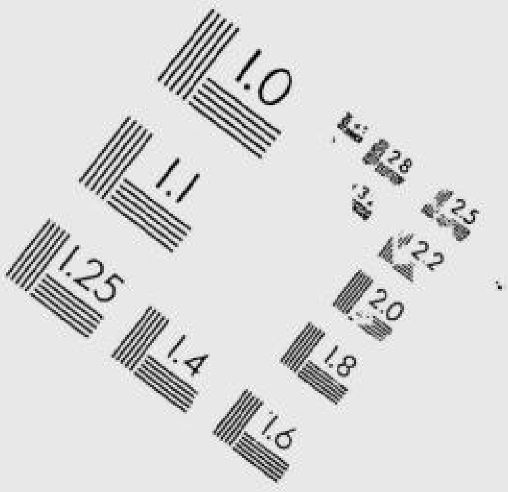
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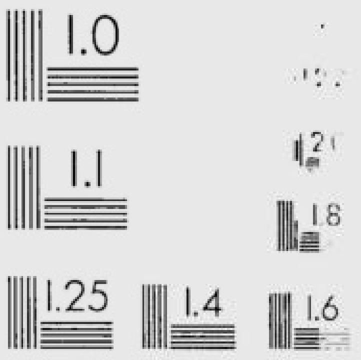
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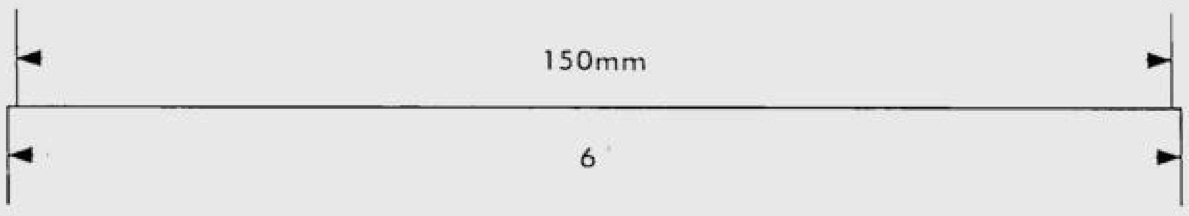

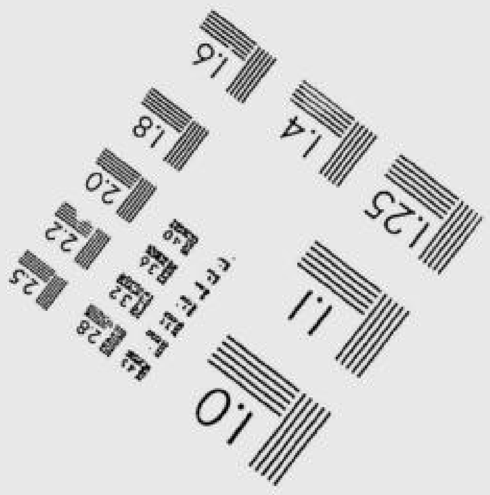
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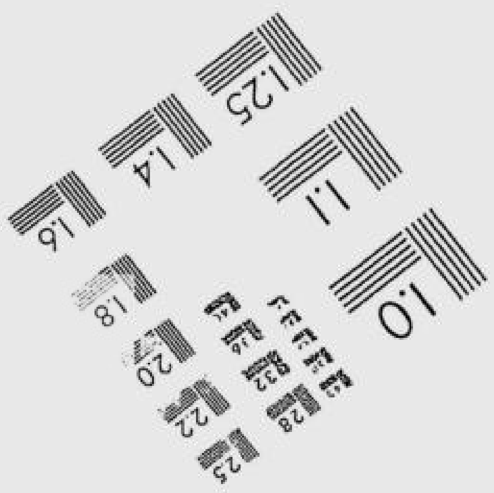
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